

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE

Week ending the 12th January 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

38. The *Indian Mirror* of the 4th January in noticing the reception accorded to Lumsden's Horse, takes the opportunity of making some unfriendly remarks on the "ingloriousness" of the Boer war; on the work done by, and the Earldom conferred upon, Lord Roberts, and on the distant and doubtful termination of the war in which the resources of the greatest Empire in the world have been for 15 months pitted against a small nation, the net result of which is almost nil. It is true that the two Republics have been annexed on paper, but the Boers are in the field, and are still more or less successful against the tremendous odds pitted against them.

The editorial proceeds to point out therefore the incongruity of the demonstrations held on the return of the troops engaged in the war, both in London and Calcutta, as if England had fully compassed her purpose. The gallant volunteers of Lumsden's Horse had doubtless done some smart work and were exposed to serious risks and hardships, but not a few of them, however, made a good thing out of the business by obtaining regular civil and military employment in South Africa. Criticising that part of Colonel Lumsden's reply to His Excellency the Viceroy's speech, in which he said that he was sure if the roll was called again, there would be no difficulty in getting another thousand men to accompany them, the Editor calls it the language of exaggeration and points out to Colonel Lumsden that not a few of his men were sick and tired of the war, for they found it to be a much more dangerous business than the holiday making which they, and indeed the whole body of British Volunteers, had anticipated and were anxious to return and did actually return by paying their own passages.

39. The *Indian Mirror* of the 4th January 1901 informs its readers that a circular bearing on the Chinese embroilment addressed to all ecclesiastics the wide world over, has been issued by the Japanese-Buddhists

of Tokyo, who trace the origin of China's troubles to the over-zeal of the Christian missionaries for the Christianisation and reformation of the "heathen Chinee." They suggest two remedial measures: (1) "The ecclesiastical authorities of the world should exercise their influence for restraining the missionaries in China from proceedings which are likely to create suspicion in the Chinese mind." (2) To hold back "the missionaries in China from all forms of procedure which might possibly be regarded as disturbing the social institutions of China."

40. The *Indian Mirror* of the 4th January 1901 wonders when "this most despicable" undertaking of the Powers in China will end. They have failed to add to their prestige or renown, and it is not China that is on her knees, but it is the Powers. And the joke of the affair is that they cannot scuttle out of the business. Their great ally, Li-Hung-Chang, is dead or dying. The Emperor cares not for their Joint-Note. The Powers are quarrelling among themselves. Great Britain and America, who have placed themselves under the lead of a German Commander-in-Chief, have rebelled against his methods of conducting the campaign. And, to cap all, our own British General is lying on his death-bed. When, asks the writer, will these Powers learn to recognise and fear the law of Karma?

41. The *Bengalee* of the 5th January 1901 has the following leaderette on England's present position:—"Not long ago, England awoke one fine morning and found herself in a state of "splendid isolation." To-day there is not a Power in the world that would lightly face the consequences of England's wrath. Both Germany and France had secretly and indirectly instigated the Boers to throw down the gauntlet before England. Naturally Mr. Kruger expected that his visit to those countries would produce some practical results to the advantage of his nation. But neither France nor Germany found it prudent to help him or even to hold out any hope to him of intervention. It seems that neither Power is in a hurry to provoke England. For France one Fashoda is enough for the end of the century as one Waterloo was sufficient for the beginning of it.

INDIAN MIRROR,
4th Jan. 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,
4th Jan. 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR.
4th Jan. 1901.

BENGALEE,
5th Jan. 1901.

And as for Germany her Chancellor has stated with truly Saxon frankness and with almost inhuman directness that Germany would be acting extremely foolishly, were she to imperil her interests—in China, for instance—for the sake of the psalm-singing simple-minded Dutch farmers of South Africa. Nor can it be denied that the *rapprochement* between England and Portugal, of which indications have not been wanting in India as well as in Europe and Africa, marks a triumph of British diplomacy, the value of which, having regard to the French occupation of Madagascar, cannot be over-estimated. Verily, the new century opens very brightly for old England and finds her stronger and more powerful than any of its predecessors. And it must be peculiarly gratifying to India to reflect that she has borne no insignificant share in contributing to the enhancement of British prestige and power. It was the Indian Contingent which, by its timely arrival at the theatre of war, saved the Colony of Natal from being overrun by the Boers. It is a soldier who had spent his whole life in active service in India—the finest soldier of the age—who has retrieved the fortunes of Great Britain in the South African war. It is the Indian Contingent that has been among the first to arrive in China and the foremost in action, side by side with European troops. India may well feel proud of achievements such as these."

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
6th Jan. 1901.

42. The *Power and Guardian* of the 6th January says that the *Englishman* would have the world believe that the situation in

The Boer war and Burmese war

South Africa at the present moment is not unlike

that in Burma in 1886. By the highest stretch of

imagination the writer cannot draw a parallel between the Boer war and the Burmese war. Now that over a year has passed, he finds the British force unrelieved from harassing difficulties. Are there instances of Burmese troops capturing British troops with their arms and ammunition? The Boers undoubtedly possess magical tactics and but for their inferior numbers it would have been difficult to say what turn events would have taken. The writer doubts if De Wet's equal as a General has ever existed.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
6th Jan. 1901.

Foreign Politics of 1900 re-
viewed.

43. The leader in the *Power and Guardian* of the 6th January, reviewing the events of last year, observes that the Russophobia of years ago has again broken out, and the progress of the Russians in Central Asia

renders it possible that some day when she is admitted into the good graces of the Amir, Russia will undoubtedly wage war on India. The writer, however, leaves what is virtually in the womb of the future to contemplate the victory secured by Russia over England in Persia, the financial control of which country has almost passed out of the hands of the Shah. He next touches upon the progress of the Boer war, the weak points in British military tactics which it has exposed and wishes that Cronje had been beaten and captured in a "fair" fight, that Lord Roberts might enjoy the full glory of his victory. He dilates on the indomitable courage of General Botha, on the wonders worked by DeWet, and concludes by expressing his utter disgust at the war and its barbarities. He turns next to China and is horrified at the carnage that has taken place there, and wonders if anyone with a heart and conscience can look upon those outrages upon women, fleeing for their lives, without calling down the wrath of Providence? The solution of the Chinese problem is as yet left to be seen.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
8th Jan. 1901.

44. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 8th January observes that the Boers seem to be indefatigable. They have been beaten on all sides and yet they persevere. They have lost their

country, their President, and their Generals, and though there is no prospect of their recovering their lost position, they are yet on the war path. A peace party has been formed at Pretoria, but the efforts of this party are not likely to be crowned with success for some time to come. The British Government has not yet definitely stated what its line of policy will be with regard to the Boers, and so long as this is not done there is no prospect of a cessation of hostilities.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
8th Jan. 1901.

Reward for Lord Roberts' work
in the Boer war.

45. In considering the question of Lord Roberts' reward for his work in South Africa, and commenting upon the rewards received by British Generals in past times, the *Hindoo Patriot* in its issue of the 8th January,

recalls the fact that when Lord Roberts arrived in South Africa, he found everything in disorder and confusion, but his superior skill in military tactics soon turned the tide of the war and the Boer lion was quickly made a prisoner. Few Generals have shown such courage and dexterity as he has done during his services in South Africa, and it would not be unreasonable to confer on him a Dukedom in recognition of his great services in the South African campaign.

46. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 8th January is sorry to see that a liberal paper like the *Statesman* should be so bitterly opposed to the aspirations of the Boers, but that is the awkward position in which Englishmen find themselves in regard to this war; they do not know what to say. The leading financial paper in England, the *Statist*, has, however, the boldness to assert that England is losing in every way, in prestige, in life, in trade, and is incapable of bringing the war to a satisfactory conclusion.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th Jan. 1901.

47. The *Indian Mirror's* leading article in its issue of the 8th January reviews the incidents of the war up to Lord Roberts' departure which was supposed to mark the end of the campaign. Subsequent events have shown, however, that in spite of our performances, the Boers are still in the field, still springing surprises on our troops, still capturing our convoys, still making prisoners of our garrisons. It is a mystery of mysteries. Either our Generals are idiots, or the Boer Commandant, De Wet, is the greatest military genius that ever was incarnated. With men and resources vastly inferior to our own, De Wet still appears to be the master of the "dismal veldt." The situation is certainly very grave for the moment, however sure we may be about our final triumph, and it is equally puzzling and inexplicable.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th Jan. 1901.

48. The *Indian Mirror* of the 8th January has the following article:—
The trouble in Somaliland. The trouble in Somaliland now appears to be as a tiny sand grain. By-and-bye, it may loom in the horizon as a mountain. Who knows what the cost will be of this European exploitation of Africa? Rome tried it centuries ago. Great Britain has on hand at the present moment—what with Egypt and the Soudan and Ashanti and Somaliland and the Dutch Colonies in South Africa—a job excruciatingly vaster than the little affair Rome had with Carthage. The issue, however confident the Britons might pretend to feel, no one can tell. It is likely to be "neck or nothing." Meanwhile, we see, that a hired transport has sailed from Bombay with troops for the Somaliland Expedition, consisting of eight British officers, nine "Native" officers, and four hundred and thirty-six non-commissioned officers, and men of the 16th Bombay Infantry.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th Jan. 1901.

49. By birth a Dutch Cape Colonist, it is no wonder, says the *Hindoo Patriot* of the 9th January, that the Rev. Adrian Hoffmeyer on the Boer war. Hoffmeyer would take a rose-coloured view of the Cape Dutch co-operation with the Boers. Their attitude, according to the reverend gentleman, is not to be stigmatised as seditious. He says:—"They are naturally sympathetic with their blood relations in the two late Republics, and as they have all along regarded the war as an unrighteous one, and as being waged in the interests of alien capitalists, they are only carrying their action to its logical conclusion in raising their present protest." The reverend gentleman gives the further assurance that there would be no rising of the Cape Dutch, and that they have only raised their protest.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
9th Jan. 1901.

50. The same writer says that whatever may be the feeling abroad, in England itself there is impatience over the Boer war, and that it is admitted by the *Statist* that "England is losing in every way, in prestige, in life, in trade." That the Boers have paid dearly for it, and that they will be called further into account for it, is what everybody will be prepared to admit, but the fact cannot be denied that England's loss at this crisis has simply been ruinous. It is doubtful whether any other country than England could sustain the loss that she has undergone. It is unfortunate that matters are getting complicated again in connection with this unhappy war. The sooner the curtain is drawn over the scene, the better.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
9th Jan. 1901.

BENGALEE,
9th Jan. 1901.

51. The *Bengalee* of the 9th instant, commenting on the article of the *Pioneer* entitled "Is civilization going back?" says
Is civilization going back? "The recrudescence of savagery among civilized nations is one of the most painful features of the closing year." It goes on to quote specific instances such as the burning of Boer homesteads, and the cruelty to the Chinese, and comes to the final conclusion that the laws of morality vary with climatic conditions. There is one code to govern the relations between nations of equal status and position, and quite a different code to guide the conduct of powerful nations, dealing with peoples who are inferior to them in military strength and resources. If the Boers were Frenchmen or Germans, they would have been differently treated. If the Chinese were Europeans, we should have been spared the dreadful tales of cruelty and massacre which have shocked the conscience of mankind. After all, might is right in this world, and morality is a secondary consideration. War is a remnant of barbarism, and the wars of the closing year of the nineteenth century have shown what little influence Christianity has exercised over the practical life of modern Europe.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Jan. 1901.

52. Now that the Transvaal war is practically over and appointments are being made to establish a civil Government in the country, the British authorities, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 10th January, should not

The claims of the South African Indians after the war. forget the just claims of the South African Indians. A respectable Hindu from Natal writing to the *Times of India* says that, for various reasons, British Indians in that new colony should at least be entitled to rights enjoyed by the other Europeans people residing there. The Indians in the dire times of war proved themselves more serviceable and more useful to the British throne than any other white people. Indeed, it has been acknowledged on all hands that on many occasions they cheerfully offered their own lives for the furtherance of British interests; while, on the other hand, many Frenchmen, Italians, Germans, Russians, and a host of other people of different nationalities residing in South Africa were found to take active parts in the war against the British. Such being the case, it is no favour they solicit when they ask for equal rights with the white population. The writer asks for a fair and equitable treatment of these Indians who did invaluable service to the British side in the field of battle, and were welcomed by them as "sons of the Empire" when the war was at its height. Now that the storm is over, and happy days are returning, will it be fair to throw them overboard? Confidence in the British character forbids the belief that the just claims of the Indians will be overlooked.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

BENGALEE,
4th Jan. 1901.

53. The Bankipore correspondent, in his letter published in the *Bengalee* of the 4th January, supports the suggestion made *Assaults on soldiers.* in that paper that a Commission of Enquiry should be appointed by Government to enquire into the real cause of the frequent assaults on British soldiers by villagers. He suggests that this is the only way to prevent the occurrence of such assaults.

BENGALEE,
4th Jan. 1901.

54. The Santipur correspondent to the *Bengalee* of the 4th January brings *Lawlessness in Santipur, Nadia.* to notice that a few days ago a young woman was robbed of her necklace on her way to the river to take her morning bath. The accused in the case was fortunately apprehended and is under trial. Another case is pending at Ranaghat in which a wayfarer was robbed by some three or four men, one of whom has been arrested while warrants have issued against the rest.

A dacoity, moreover, was lately attempted in the house of a respectable gentleman, but fortunately without effect. These and other cases show the existence of lawlessness and prove that *badmashes* of late have grown bolder by the utter incapacity of the police.

BENGALEE,
4th Jan. 1901.

55. The *Bengalee* of the 4th January 1901 points to the case of dacoity *Dacoity in Burdwan.* reported by the *Burdwan Sanjivani* which beats the record in point of impudence and daring. About a fortnight ago, a band of dacoits, armed with offensive and defensive weapons,

attacked the house of Babu Shoshi Bhushan Mitra, of village Gotan, thana Raina. At about midnight, the robbers came and set fire to a stack of hay and roused the villagers by beat of drums. In the fierce glare of the light afforded by the burning hay stack, and with music to enliven them the dacoits robbed the house of everything. On both sides of Shoshi Babu's house live several chaukidars, but nothing was heard or seen of them.

56. The *Bengalee* of the 5th January 1901 says that the *Pioneer* in an article on the increase of rioting in Bengal falls foul of the Native Press, which it labels as vituperative, as voicing only the ideas of a small minority and as having no other policy but that of opposition, and therefore almost invariably against anything that makes for good Government. The writer in the *Bengalee* is ready to admit that there is an increase not only of rioting in Bengal, but of other serious crime and welcomes the interest taken in the question by the *Pioneer*, though he cannot agree with the view taken by the Allahabad paper that the chief causes of the increase of rioting are the ease with which appeals can be made against the decisions of District or Subordinate Magistrates and the passing of the land from big and influential resident zamindars to petty land-holders who are often lawyers and have an interest in the growth of litigation. The root of the increase of crime lies in the inefficiency of the police and the diffidence of the people in coming forward to help the authorities. If the police were efficient neither riots nor dacoities would be as common as unfortunately they are in most parts of the province.

The writer then goes on to say that the law is strong enough as it is; and the provision of appeals to higher Courts is a safeguard which no true statesman would like to do away with. Those who have any experience of mufassal Courts and the way justice is administered by them will not readily support the contention of the *Pioneer* that it is the finality of the Magistrate's order which will bring the millennium in Bengal. However, much the Allahabad paper may rail and rave at the so-called vituperative Native Press, practical politics demand that the power of the executive should be curtailed and not increased. As for the theory of absenteeism of landlords accounting for the increase of riots, there may be some truth in it, but certainly the lawyer-zamindars, whom the *Pioneer* singles out as instigators of riots, are better than what they are sought to be made out. Why, as educated men, with an idea of what responsibility is, it is going too high to haul them up before the bar of public opinion, as instigators of crime simply because they are lawyers and may benefit by an increase of litigation! Their position in society, their education, their responsibility as landlords all go to show that they cannot wantonly jeopardise themselves by participating, directly or indirectly, in crime.

If rioting is on the increase, the reason therefore must be sought elsewhere. Serious rioting cannot take place off hand, without some preparations for it, so it is quite possible for the authorities to be warned of a riot and to prevent it, if they had anything like a good Intelligence Department to back them. It is the police which serve as the Intelligence Department and thus the inefficiency of the police is the primal cause, not only of all disturbances, but of other serious crime. Then, again, constituted as the police force now is, villagers are not in a particular hurry to bring to it news of an intended riot when they have an inkling of the affair, because were they to do so, they run the risk of being pounced upon as offenders and *hairaned* and *pereshaned* beyond endurance. It is by sympathy and consideration that the authorities could expect loyal support and devotion from the people. But while they seek to make their power felt by every means they can, they have no right to complain if the people like nothing better than to keep themselves at a respectful distance from the police and the executive. No wonder, then, that rioting is on the increase, and it will continue to increase, so long the Government does not take the bull by the horn and agree to re-organise the police department and run it on more practical and western methods. In all western countries, the ordinary police have little or no detection work to perform. They are employed for patrolling the streets, for acting as sentinels and for regulating the street traffic. The real detection of crime is left to the detectives and they are always a better class

BENGALEE,
5th Jan. 1901.

of men than the average run of policemen. The Indian police is more for show than any real work. It does incalculable mischief, but very little real good. Let the *Pioneer* look at the question from this common-sense point of view and urge on the Government the reform of the police, and then he will have earned the gratitude of the Indian people.

The *Pioneer* in dealing with the increase of rioting, touches upon the question of disarming the Backergunge district and evidently hints at the repetition of the experiment elsewhere. The *Bengalee* would invite the attention of his contemporary to the fact that the disarming of the peaceful population of a district cannot possibly be attended with any tangible good; because the punishment comes not on the criminal, but on the peaceful portion of the community. Those who require fire-arms or any other class of weapons for nefarious objects can always secure them; but the peaceful citizen cannot, and so the latter falls an easy prey to the former. The disarming, therefore, helps to complicate matters and not to simplify them. Suppose, a murder is committed with a gun. The murderer is sure to take care that he is not detected by means of the gun. On the other hand, he is more likely to escape on account of the provision of disarmament. Then, again, by disarming the people of Backergunge, the Government has simply accelerated the chances of destruction of life and property by wild animals.

BENGALEE,
6th Jan. 1901.

57. The *Bengalee* of the 6th January returns to the case of alleged outrage on a native lady by some soldiers on the Serampore railway platform, and publishes a letter on the subject which the Railway Passengers Association have addressed the Assistant Inspector-General, Howrah Railway Police. The Association has also addressed a similar letter to the Agent of the East Indian Railway asking for the punishment of the Serampore station-master for his failure to prevent the outrage.

BENGALEE,
6th Jan. 1901.

58. The *Bengalee* of the 6th January has the following article on the reorganisation of the village watch:—
 Reorganisation of the village watch. We have received many letters *anent* the re-organisation of the police, some from ex-police officers and some from men holding high positions in society. One gentleman suggests that the village watch should be placed under the zamindars, and that the latter should be held responsible for the peace of the villages. Now the zamindars of old, when the English had not yet consolidated their power, exercised not a little power over the public, the power they possessed being afterwards relegated to the regular police when it was constituted. The fact that it was found necessary to disarm the zamindars of this power which they had enjoyed for centuries, is sufficient to prove that the system had its faults; and so it would not be quite judicious, we believe, to return to it at this late hour of the day. We cannot therefore agree with the correspondent when he says that the village watch should be placed under the zamindars. The best party to control the village watch is the regular police, and they should have a freer hand in the matter than they now have. The writer then cites the case of dacoity reported at paragraph 55 *supra*, and cannot blame the village watch for not putting in an appearance during the dacoity. Three or four unarmed men could not surely be expected to oppose armed and desperate dacoits. It is too much to expect this of any man, much less of untrained village louts, such as chaukidars generally are. But if these three or four men were properly trained in the use of arms and if they had fire-arms, they might have presented a bold front, and might have turned the scale too. Another dacoity or attempt at dacoity, which had taken place in the thickly-populated town of Santipur, also proves the efficacy of fire-arms in successfully opposing Indian dacoits. In this case a gang of midnight robbers attacked a house; but the inmates knew what they were about and so they fired a few blank shots, and off the dacoits scampered like a pack of hares. It is such cases which point to the necessity of reorganising the village watch on the lines suggested and of arming it, but not certainly for every-day purpose. If the guns are kept with the collecting panchayet, and if he be held responsible for them and the ammunition placed in his charge, the system can only give good results without the least chance of anything going wrong.

59. The following paragraph is taken from the *Power and Guardian* of the 6th January :—

Theft in a train. While a native gentleman was travelling by train a few nights ago from Goalundo to Calcutta he awoke from sleep at Barrackpore and discovered that his steel trunk containing, among other things, Government Promissory notes and currency notes, in all valued at Rs. 1,800, was missing. Subsequently the steel trunk was found broken open in a jungle near the Poradah railway station. The Government Promissory notes, valued at Rs. 1,500, were found intact, but Currency notes, valued at Rs. 300, were found abstracted from the missing trunk. The police have not yet succeeded in tracing the perpetrator of the theft.

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60. The Burdwan correspondent to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* in his letter to that paper of the 8th January, brings to light two dacoities and one daring theft which occurred last month in the district.

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The first dacoity occurred at a banker's at Sundaria in the Raniganj subdivision. Thirty or forty dacoits were engaged in it, and the property looted amounted to Rs. 327. Six men have been arrested on suspicion.

The second took place on the 20th idem, when about 18 men entered the house of a man in Gotan in the Royna thana jurisdiction and within earshot of some chaukidars and decamped with property to the value of Rs. 450. Three persons have been arrested on suspicion. (This is the case reported at paragraph 55, *supra*.)

The theft was committed at noon from the house of a pundit who was temporarily absent from his house. Property to the value of Rs. 600 was stolen.

61. The *Bengalee* of the 8th January corrects the *Pioneer*, on one point, with reference to the remarks made by it regarding The *Pioneer* and rioting in Bengal. the increase of cases of rioting in Bengal (paragraph 56 *supra*). There can be no doubt that lawlessness is on the increase throughout the country. But what are called cases of technical rioting, so far from having increased in Bengal, on the contrary show a steady decrease during the past three years. The writer adduces figures for the three years 1897—99 from the latest Bengal Police Report to prove his contention.

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The only serious case of rioting in which Indian zamindars are alleged to have been implicated was the one in the Hooghly district in which the adherents of rival zamindars are reported to have freely used pistols and *tangis*. This case arose out of disputes regarding the collection of rents. Only two men were, however, sent up for trial and the prosecution broke down, in consequence of the gross mismanagement of the case by the Singoor police. The writer, therefore, claims that the *Bengalee* has not discarded his traditional character. He has not suddenly changed his peaceful and lawabiding disposition for one which necessitates the employment of pistols and *tangis*.

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62. The *Bengalee* of the 9th instant gives a list of cases of extortion and torture brought against the police in 1899, Torture and extortion on the part of police. and is quite convinced of the necessity of improving the personnel of the force. It points out that nearly all the cases ended in acquittal, but it attributes this to the difficulty in getting evidence against the police. It complains that in the report prominence is given to the cases which have been decided in favour of the police and not a word is said about the cases in which judgment has gone against them. Either the writer of the Report has mistaken his vocation or his object is to encourage the members of the force to think that they need not be afraid of a criminal prosecution. A policeman hardly needs such an assurance. Its absence has not certainly put a stop to his occasional high-handed proceedings. But when he finds that prosecuted he may be, but convicted never, the effect of this agreeable discovery will scarcely tend to reform him.

63. The *Bengalee* of the 9th instant has the following leaderette anent outrages in Mymensingh.

Outrages in Mymensingh. Of late the district of Mymensingh has earned a most unenviable notoriety by reason of the large increase in the number of cases in which women are the victims. The matter had occupied the most earnest consideration of the Local Government and eventually an additional

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Inspector of Police had to be appointed in each subdivision to specially investigate cases of this nature. The result was a large increase in the number of cases reported and persons convicted, but there does not appear to have been any decline in the number of cases. It is, however, satisfactory to learn from the latest Police Report, that there had not been, during the year 1899, a single case of gang rape since the employment of special Inspectors. The Commissioner of the Division observes that "from time immemorial the ignorant and debased Mussalmans of this district have been notorious for their immorality." He suspects that while the number of cases of this nature which are reported is sufficiently large, many more cases take place which are amicably settled and do not come before the Courts at all. Now that, however, the authorities are determined to suppress outrages upon women in this district and have taken special measures to achieve this object, it is to be hoped that cases of this nature will henceforth diminish. The whole country is grateful to Sir John Woodburn for His Honour's determination not to follow a "policy of drift in regard to this matter." The pity is that cases of this nature continue to disfigure the records of Criminal Courts in the district and point to the necessity of greater attention being paid to them.

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64. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 9th instant, publishes a letter from a Rangpur correspondent, bewailing the frequent transfer of Babu Janaki Pershad Tewari from Rangpur. Babu Janaki Pershad Tewari, the Officiating District Superintendent, Police, may be kept on in Rangpur, and his transfer to the 24-Parganas cancelled.

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65. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 10th January, publishes on account of the death of the young man named Sharling, whose corpse was found near the East Indian Railway lines, not far from Burdwan station.

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66. In the Serampore correspondent's letter published in the *Bengalee* of the 8th January, there occurs the following paragraph:—

"Mr. Duval is now enquiring into the outrage case in which four British soldiers, stationed at Barrackpore, are implicated. Statements of several men have been taken down, and the story of the outrage has been fairly established. The outraged lady and her relatives do not, however, come forward for obvious reasons. Mr. Duval will probably see the Cantonment Magistrate in this connection. The Railway authorities are also making a vigorous enquiry. If no criminal prosecution is instituted for want of a complainant, the soldiers can very well be departmentally dealt with like the Rangoon case."

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67. The *Bengalee* of the 10th January is glad to find that efforts are being made by the authorities to trace the culprits in the Serampore outrage case and desires to co-operate with them in this matter for the ends of justice. This newspaper sent down a special reporter to Rishra where the outraged lady lives. There are eye-witnesses who saw the affair, and surely they can be examined. Babu Tincouri Mukerji of the Dewan family of Rishra, is an eye-witness; and so is Babu Chuni Lal Dey, a respectable gentleman of Serampore. In any case Serampore and Seoraphuli may be declared as being out of bounds. The public await with interest the result of the enquiries which the authorities have set on foot.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

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68. The *Bengalee* of the 4th January devotes a column to ventilating the following grievances of the *Amla* of the Midnapore Collectorate.

Messrs. Samman and Jarbo, and the Midnapore Collectorate *Amla*. (1) Mr. Jarbo, the Sadar Deputy Magistrate, superseding the claims of several senior officers, better fitted for the duty, has been entrusted by Mr. Samman with the task of checking the Attendance Register of the clerks. He ordered them to attend office from 10-30 A.M., instead of 11, the hour of attendance at all Courts in the country. Several ministerial officers were warned for being late, and entries were made against them in their service-books. Fortunately, however, the change was abandoned

after a month's trial, than which there is no better proof of the worthlessness of the order introducing it.

(2) Mr. Jarbo has ordered that the time taken up an *Amla* summoned to give evidence in any court of law is to be treated as casual leave, a great hardship on the *Amla*, of which Mr. Samman cannot be unaware.

(3) Lastly, Mr. Samman, at the instance of Mr. Jarbo, has ordered that when the *Amla* are employed in the Treasury Department after nightfall, they must provide their own light!

69. The Midnapore correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, in a letter published in the issue of that paper of the 7th January, complains that Mr. Jarbo, the Deputy Magistrate is very hard on the *Amla* who are late in attending office. He himself comes to office at 11 A.M., and leaves the Court by 3 P.M., and on other days at 12 or 1 P.M., but the *Amla* are detained till 6 P.M.

70. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 7th January says that Babu Rajani Kanta Sircar, the well-known pleader of Transfers and postings of officers. Purulia, has brought to notice the careless manner in which officers, specially Deputy Magistrates, are transferred or posted. He cites the case of Babu Prosonna Kumar Karmakar. This Deputy Magistrate had been only 18 months in the district of Purulia, where he was very popular, when he was transferred. His successor Maulvi Habaibar, is not acquainted with the Bengalee language, which is the court language of the district, nor is another Deputy Magistrate in Purulia, Babu Ram Narayan Persad. Babu Rajani Kanta asks why are not these gentlemen posted to places where the court language is their mother tongue and only Bengali Deputy Magistrates sent to Purulia? By such an arrangement, the Government loses nothing; on the other hand the administration of justice can be carried on better.

71. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 9th instant, complains of Mr. Howard's order of not allowing men in *dhoties* to appear in his Court with shoes on: and also brings to light Mr. Howard's statement, that the ventilation of grievances in newspapers was not the best way of obtaining concessions from him.

(a)—Education.

72. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 5th January 1901 complains that the want of originality on the part of Indian students, of which so much is frequently heard, is due to their estimation of the greater importance of *memory* than that of *observation and reflection*. The blame of this is laid on the shoulders of the Universities and their methods, and on the teachers themselves, who are possessed of little originality in their methods of teaching.

In suggesting the remedies for these evils arising from the defective system of education adopted in India, the writer points out that so long as the University authorities do not alter the usual method followed in the examinations, viz., that of confining themselves to the questions from the text books prescribed for different examinations, there is very little chance of effecting any improvement. It should also be remembered that in selecting teachers it is essential that they should be such men as are able to command the attention as well as the respect of the pupils. 'He should be able to make him desire to learn.' That is the most important step towards success in teaching.

73. The *Bengalee* of the 6th January makes the following remarks in connection with the age-limit for Entrance

Age-limit for Entrance candidates of the North-Western Provinces.—

The Senate of the Allahabad University has passed a rule to the effect that no candidate should be admitted to the Entrance Examination, who has not completed sixteen years of age. The writer cannot congratulate the University on their decision. The Calcutta University fixed precisely the same age-limit many years ago, but finding it objectionable, did away with it. The authorities are now doing their best to ensure a correct record of the age of candidates. The University

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is naturally solicitous that there shall be no physical deterioration of the candidates, owing to their anxiety to matriculate early. But the effect of a rule like this would be to waste the time of a large number of promising students and to place before them the temptation to over-state their age, which, in many cases, they will not be able to resist. If the limit of age had been fixed at fifteen years, it would have been less objectionable. But the sixteen years limit is too high, and must inflict great hardship upon a large class of deserving students.

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74. A correspondent from Hooghly whose letter appears in the issue of the *Indian Mirror* of the 10th January, regrets the proposed abolition of the Hooghly Branch School.

The Government have expressed their intention of withdrawing from the management of the school on the grounds of its financial position being too inadequate to support itself, and its proximity to the Hooghly Collegiate School which is situated at Chinsura. A petition numerously signed by the inhabitants of the town who have been greatly benefited by the said useful institution, praying for its existence, will be very shortly submitted to the authorities. Should the school be in fact abolished as the Government have proposed, not only the people of the town proper, who find it very convenient and advantageous to send their boys to it for education, but those living so far as at Bansberia, Shahagunge, Bandel, Bally, and even Halisahar, Kona on the other side of the river will have the misfortune of being deprived of the boon which their children have been so long enjoying.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal administration.*

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75. The Chapra correspondent to the *Bengalee* of the 4th January writes that the revision of assessment of the house-tax is going on. The enhancement may be just, but coming as it does in the wake of the plague, it looks like an illustration of the proverb that misfortunes never come singly.

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Municipal assessment in Chapra. 76. Writing of the South Barrackpore Municipality in the *Bengalee* of the 4th instant, "Vox Populi" brings to notice how the affairs of the Municipality are now being conducted. Its Chairman, he says has a coal shop in Calcutta, and does not know English very well. Its Vice-Chairman has also a very poor knowledge of English, and the result is that they are completely dominated by others who are having their own way in everything, as the following instances will show:—

(1) Though its income has been reduced by half by the complete separation of the Panihaty Municipality from 1st April 1900, the Municipal Commissioners have resolved upon increasing the pay of the Municipal establishment, including the menial staff.

(2) Recently the Head Clerk, who was getting Rs. 25 per month, has been appointed as the Assessor of the Municipality on pay of Rs. 60 per month. This is most objectionable, in view of the present straitened circumstances of the Municipality. The Head Clerk is a local man with local prejudices; and it is a very doubtful whether he will be able to carry on his duties, to the satisfaction of all parties. Besides, he will be completely under the control of the Commissioners; and they will (if they so like) get the assessment done by him according to their own whims and caprices; and the result will be that those rate-payers, who are not in the good books of the Commissioners, will have to suffer. Hitherto the assessment was made by the Ward Commissioners with the aid of the Ward Committees, consisting of local men, who being on the spot, could judge of the circumstances of each rate-payer. An advertisement was inserted in the papers, calling for applications for the post of Assessor; and numerous applications came in, but the Head Clerk was appointed presumably because of his services in connection with the recent election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality.

(3) Lately the Government Auditor audited the accounts of the Municipality, and serious irregularities were noticed. Money had been drawn without vouchers and amounts realised from the rate-payers on account of taxes, &c., were not credited. The Magistrate of the District, who recently inspected

the Municipality, has also sent a very unfavourable report to the Commissioner of the Division regarding the working of the Municipality.

Unless the working of the Municipal Board is improved, no good can be expected. Attempts were made to bring good men into the Board, but they were quite ineffectual.

77. The *Bengalee* of the 8th January in its leader on the numerous prosecutions of Indian landlords in the Calcutta Police Court for having houses unfit for human habitation, remarks that there is an ulterior motive for the zeal and activity on the part of the Corporation. The first reason that would justify such prosecutions is, apparently, to teach the Oriental to come up to that standard of perfection of sanitary living, embodied in the ideal which the European has set up for himself. If this be not the case, then the only other object could be to show up to the Government the insanitary state of the native quarter, so that it may be considered expedient to demolish a large number of native dwellings. Remembering, again, that this activity of the Corporation is following the agitation on the Central Railway scheme, the writer is led to presume that influences are at work to bring about in a circumlocutory way the realisation of the hopes of money-getting speculators.

He then complains that the only expert evidence accepted by the Northern Division Magistrate, on the unfitness of these dwelling-houses, is that of the Health Officer, whose ideas upon the matter merely resolve themselves into matters of personal opinion. The Magistrate, again, possesses no knowledge of architecture and hygiene, and must base his notions on the opinions of experts, if these be forthcoming. The writer concludes by saying that there is no question that if the statements were intelligently challenged and argued out by a capable member of the Bar, supported by expert evidence, the cases before the Police Magistrate would not be disposed of as they are now; and he appeals for a kindlier treatment of the cases of the poor Indian landlord.

78. Replying to the letter in paragraph 76 *supra*, "Justice" in the issue of the *Bengalee* of the 10th January, says that Babu Rash Behary Sircar, the present Chairman of the South Barrackpore Municipality, is a respect-

able zamindar and the owner of some big coal mines at Raniganj, and has sufficient command over the English language to perform the duties of a Chairman. The auditor's report contains no reflections on the present administration. The auditor came to audit the accounts of the past official year with which Babu Rash Behary Sircar and the present body of Commissioners had nothing whatever to do. They cannot be held responsible for the shortcomings, if there were any, of their predecessors in office. "Justice" next defends the present administration for increasing the pay of its office establishment. It cannot be expected that a man can be honest and out of the reach of corruption on Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 per month. He considers the appointment of the Head Clerk as assessor also a wise act on their part.

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(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

79. Pandit Rakhal Chandra Tewari, Pleader, Diamond Harbour, writes a lengthy letter extending over two columns, to the *Power and Guardian* of the 6th January, bringing to notice the grievances of the tenants of Khas

Mahal Estates No. 1494, who, after bringing the jungle land they originally held under cultivation at great personal cost, have now been called upon to pay illegal enhancements of rent, and what is worse, are even threatened with ejection.

The writer concludes by appealing to the Lieutenant-Governor to consider the hardships to which Khas Mahal raiyats are being incessantly exposed at the hands of the Revenue authorities, and to save them "from the grasp of the rapacious and blood-thirsty vultures reigning within the precincts of Diamond Harbour Khas Mahal."

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80. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 7th January 1901, observes that the Agricultural conference now being held at Lahore is certainly a novelty in the way of Indian conferences, and deserves active sympathy of all right-thinking men, as it has taken up the one question that more than any other ought to claim the attention at this crisis. The objects which the conference has set before it principally are: (1) To promote thrift and co-operation, and further the principle of self-help among Indian agriculturists; (2) to start agricultural industries, such as horse and mule breeding, goat and sheep rearing, dairy farming, gardening, sericulture and the advancement of agriculture; (3) to start an agricultural school and experimental farm with the co-operation of Government for the purpose of teaching improved methods of agriculture; (4) to revive the system of *punchayat*, to decide petty cases among zamindars thereby helping to suppress needless litigation.

The practical way in which the conference has set to work, should commend its efforts to Government. If Government have no sympathy for mere speculators, here is a body of men whose opinions and advice are entitled to great weight. The prayer of the conference to the Punjab Government is that they may encourage agricultural and technical education by starting an agricultural school and an experimental farm; that competent gentlemen of the Punjab be added to the Committee on Agricultural Banks; that they may take steps to revise the ancient and simple system of *punchayat* in village communities, and to decide petty cases of zamindari and avoid litigation; that native chiefs and other land nobles be invited to start horse and mule breeding, goat and sheep rearing, dairy farming, floriculture, arboriculture and gardening to increase the resources of the country; that in view of the famine they may take steps to promote the indigenous arts and industries; and that they may ask big landlords to introduce improved scientific agricultural implements and superior seeds.

81. Whilst on the subject of agriculture, the same writer once more urges Government to consider their revenue demands on Revenue collection. raiyats. Whatever may be said in favour of the exactions under this head, irregularity in the system of collection, and the principle on which that system is based, have given grounds of complaint which should not any longer be ignored. Reference is made to Rai Ragunath Rao's letter in the *Madras Times* on the Malabar settlement, strongly deprecating the hardship on the agriculturists from this source.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canal and irrigation.*

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The improvements in the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

82. The *Indian Mirror* of the 5th January is glad to observe that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities have accepted its suggestions with regard to the timing of the morning office train and the improvement of the inter-class accommodation. The morning office train has now been timed to reach Howrah before 10 A.M., as suggested, and the inter-class compartments, attached to mail trains, have been fitted with cushions and spring hanging beds. They have been also coloured differently from the third-class carriages, and are now attached close to the mail van. The writer is thankful to the Company for taking such prompt action in the matter, and hopes the same improvement will be made in the inter-class accommodation in all the other trains of the company, and further suggests that more than one second and one inter-class carriage should be attached to each train.

83. A Kalipahari correspondent to the *Bengalee*, dated 6th January, writes that since the 14th December last there have been New Mail arrangement at additions to the arrival and despatch of mails at Kalipahari, which have given great satisfactions.

The original time for arrival of mails in the morning and despatch at 7 P.M. is, however, not altered. But at present in the intervening time the mails arrive at, and are despatched from Kalipahari at 11-4 A.M. and 7-4 P.M., respectively. There being, however, one postman attached to the local post-office, the usual service continues in the morning. In addition to 18 collieries, the postman has twenty villages within his beat. He has to serve the latter one every alternate

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day, over and above his attending the trains four times daily for the mails. In performing such onerous duties, exclusive of office work, he has to cut short his hours for taking meals and rest. Notwithstanding this he often fails to attend the trains for mails, the work being done by the post-master. An additional postman is therefore desired.

84. The same correspondent urges upon the railway authorities the necessity of increasing their rolling stock to meet Deficiency of rolling stock for transmission of coal. the demands of the colliery proprietors.

85. The *Hindoo Patriot* of 8th January 1901 brings to notice that the Postal grievances. villagers of Aganshi and 50 other neighbouring villages, are experiencing great inconvenience in the matter of posting letters. The nearest post-office is at Mahisrekha, which is about four miles from Aganshi. The residents concerned have submitted petitions to the Postmaster-General praying that their grievances might be redressed; but no attention has hitherto been given to this matter. The writer hopes the Postal authorities will consider this matter and remove the grievances complained of.

86. The Chandpur correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 8th January, contributes a long letter on the accident A steamer accident. which occurred to the steamer *Beluchi*, on New Year's day.

It struck a *chur* in the Padma, somewhere between Bihar and Sureswar stations, a little after candle light. There were no fewer than 600 souls on board the steamer, amongst whom were the District Magistrate of Tippera and more than half a dozen European ladies and gentlemen and as well as a good many Judicial and Executive and other Government officials, all returning home after the Christmas holidays.

Complaint is made that no vessel was sent to the relief of the *Beluchi* from Goalundo, and that no steamer is kept in reserve at Chandpur to meet such emergencies.

It was only the other day, the serang of the S.S. *Buzzard* was fined Rs. 100 for rash navigation by the Subdivisional Magistrate of Madaripur, and the serang of S.S. *Condor* was served with a notice to show cause for having committed a similar offence by the Joint Magistrate, Chandpur, who, however, was ultimately pleased to let him off with a warning.

Messrs. Kilburn and Company, the Managing Agents, are asked to take notice of these mishaps and see that the comfort, convenience and safety of the passengers are looked to.

87. The *Bengalee* of the 8th January reports that complaints are rife as to the existence of great mismanagement on Railway complaints. the part of the Railway authorities at Domar, a station in the Northern Section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway line. Domar is one of the most important centres of the jute trade of Bengal and large quantities of jute find their way to it for transmission to Calcutta and other places. Besides jute, other articles of merchandise, such as tobacco, gunny, hides, &c., are also stored there for despatch to the metropolis. Considering the large stock of merchandise that passes through it, the importance of Domar approaches that of Haldibari itself. It is said that the authorities of the Eastern Bengal State Railway seem to be very indifferent to the requirements of this important trade-centre in Northern Bengal. The supply of waggons for removal of the jute collected at Domar, is limited. The result is a block that inflicts great loss on the merchants, both Indian and European. Meanwhile failing to meet the demand for waggons, the Railway authorities have introduced what is called the registration system. Dealers in jute have to inform the station-master of the number of bales they have ready for transmission. The station-master after satisfying himself by personal inspection that the number reported is correct, enters it in his register. In the matter of actual transmission of the goods, precedence is given to the parties according to the order in which their names are registered. Some idea may be had of the inconvenience and loss to which merchants are put by the inability on the part of the Railway authorities to supply waggons, from the fact that it generally takes a month or more before the goods registered on a

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particular date, are actually booked for despatch. Trade in jute has become a lottery in consequence of the deficiency in the waggon supply. A merchant may desire to avail himself of a certain price at Calcutta; he may have a large stock of jute at Domar, ready for despatch; but he is utterly unable to send even a single bale till a long time has elapsed from the date on which his goods are ready. By the time his goods reach Calcutta, the price may have gone down. Considering the necessity which every merchant feels for prompt despatch of his goods, and the keen competition that prevails among those engaged in the trade, it is no wonder that wrong figures are often sent to the station-master about the number of bales ready for transmission. If one has only a thousand bales, one seeks to have it put down as ten thousand in the station register. The excess entered is certain to be ready by the time his turn comes, which, perhaps as already stated, never comes till a month expires from the date of registration. It is true that a check exists upon incorrect registration in the supervision, the rules provide, by the officer in charge of the station. But in actual working that check is worse than useless. Instances frequently occur of false registration; of the number being enormously exaggerated of the bales ready in a particular warehouse for despatch. The railway staff, in this respect, should be above suspicion. Unfortunately the case is otherwise.

The false registration of jute at the Domar station has been the subject of correspondence between well-known firms such as Messrs. Birkmyre and Company, a copy of whose letter on the subject to the Traffic Superintendent, Eastern Bengal State Railway, is published.

The writer asks that the higher authorities may look into the matter and remove the grievances complained of.

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88. The *Bengalee* of the 8th January points to the case of Mr. Shircore, who was appointed fifth foreman-mechanic at the Jobberies in the Telegraph work- Telegraph Workshops, on the strength of a cer- shops, Alipore. tificate of practical training obtained from Messrs.

W. Leslie and Company, in whose workshop he is believed to have served his apprenticeship. Lord George Hamilton mentioned that subordinate appointments in the Indian Engineering and Telegraph Departments are given to students who have received the necessary training at one of the Indian Engineering Colleges. The case of Mr. Shircore gives the lie to the professions of both the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India. Another contemplated jobbery pointed out is the bringing out of a mechanic from England to fill the post of second foreman-mechanic who is to be promoted to senior foreman's place when the latter retires shortly. The writer asks Government may stop this intended jobbery and fill the vacancy by gradual promotion leaving the last appointment open for a qualified man from the Sibpur Engineering College.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th Jan. 1901.

89. The *Indian Mirror* of the 8th January 1901 is glad that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities have arranged to issue monthly suburban tickets from the current month.

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th Jan. 1901.

90. A correspondent from Hooghly complains in the *Indian Mirror* of the 10th January of the disgraceful mismanagement of train service for passengers by the East Indian Railway authorities at the Howrah station. Trains, both local and through, not excepting even the mail, are leaving Howrah at random.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Jan. 1901.

91. A correspondent to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 10th January makes the following complaint against the Calcutta Tramway Company:—

BENGALEE,
10th Jan. 1901.

On Saturday last, the 5th January, a native female carrying a babe in her arms, attempted to board a car in motion after the driver had been appealed to in vain to stop the car for her. The consequence was she fell and the writer could not wait to see what injury she and her infant sustained.

92. A complaint reaches the *Bengalee* of the 10th January that the subordinate officials, employed on the East Indian Railway, hardly get any leave even when they need it most.

A complaint of railway em- ployés.

The correspondent proceeds to give an instance where a poor signaller, employed at Mokameh, was denied leave to see his dying mother. The mother died, and again, the poor man applied for leave to perform her *sradh* ceremony. Again came the stereotyped answer from the heartless officialdom of the East Indian Railway; and the leave was refused! Could there be a grosser instance of official heartlessness? The *Bengalee* appeals to Lord Curzon, who is the friend of the poor clerks, to bring the Railway authorities to a sense of their duty in dealing with a humble class of their subordinates.

(h)—General.

93. The *Moslem Chronicle* states that a largely signed memorial has been submitted to the Chief Justice on behalf of Petition to the Chief Justice. Sarishtadars, Nazirs, Head Clerks, and Translators of District Judges in Bihar and Bengal, who desire to qualify themselves as leaders. Their prayer is that, as before, they should be allowed to appear at the Pleadership Examination without being required to satisfy the educational test or attend a law-class. While every man has the right to try and better his prospects in life, and although there were in the days of the John Company men who made their mark as executive and judicial officers who were quite innocent of even the English alphabet; that is no reason why such men should be pitchforked into the Judicial Service to play with the lives and properties of the people. Times have changed and with them the requirements for admission into the public service.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
29th Dec. 1900.

94. The *Bengalee* of the 5th January 1901 is glad to notice that Babu Chandra Narayan Singh, Senior Deputy Magistrate of the 24-Parganas, has been appointed Collector of Calcutta in succession to Rai Durgagati Banerjee Bahadur, who is about to retire. Babu Chandra Narayan Singh is the owner of extensive zamindaris in the district of Birbhum where his family is held in high respect; he is an elected Fellow of the Calcutta University, and throughout his long period of service, has gained the esteem of his superiors and the public. At one time the writer goes on to say Government was anxious to bestow on him the title of Raja, but the modesty of Babu Chandra Narayan declined the offer. His supersession at the time of the last appointment of the Inspector-General of Registration was a disappointment to the public. But Government has done a graceful act in at last making an adequate recognition of his long and meritorious service. The public is well pleased with the new appointment and hopes that Babu Chandra Narayan will have health and strength to enjoy the lift which he has so long and so well deserved.

BENGALEE,
5th Jan. 1901.

95. The *Indian Mirror* of the 6th January remarks that Lord Curzon has pledged himself to befriend Indian industries, Encouragement of Indian industries. but his subordinates cannot always be prevented from setting at naught his express wishes on the subject. It quotes the complaint made by *Indian Engineering* that the Superintendent of the Stationery Department, Calcutta, practically boycotted country made papers in favour of the European article, simply because the prices of the former were slightly in excess of those of the latter, and reproduces its contemporary's suggestion that the example of the Australian Colonies, where not only are local industries encouraged by their output being purchased even when the price is in excess of foreign manufacture, but are still further assisted by a system of bounties might be followed with advantage in India.

INDIAN MIRROR,
6th Jan. 1901.

96. The Serampore correspondent to the *Hindoo Patriot* of the 7th January informs its readers that the memorial which Carrying of beef through a Hindu temple to a ghat in Serampore. the Hindu community of Serampore lately forwarded to their Subdivisional Officer, praying for the removal of the practice of carrying beef through the compound of a temple in the Jugal Audy's Ghât, has at last borne fruit. The Subdivisional Officer has prohibited it, and a separate ghât, just facing the Catholic Chapel, has been set apart for the butchers.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
7th Jan. 1901.

97. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has an article in its issue of the 7th January, ventilating the grievances of Munsifs Grievances of Munsifs. who are overworked and poorly paid, and who take

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
7th Jan. 1901.

nearly 20 years to rise to the first grade. An instance is shown of how additional work has been thrown upon many of them without additional pay. Under the recent Bengal Civil Courts Act, a dozen Munsifs have been vested with Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 powers, resulting in the saving of as many as six Sub-Judgeships. On examination it will be found that the number of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 original suits in the files of some of these Munsifs is almost equal to what two Sub-Judges in the same district have got in their files. Besides, these Munsifs have got separate jurisdiction to try munsifi cases which include money or title-suits of the value of Rs. 1,000 or under. Moreover they are also vested with Small Cause Court powers to try summarily petty suits. The plain duty of the Government is either to increase the number of Sub-Judges or to remunerate adequately the Munsifs who are compelled to perform the extra duties. The Hon'ble Judges of the High Court are appealed to on behalf of these officers.

BENGALEE,
8th Jan. 1901.

98. The *Bengalee* of the 8th January says that the way in which passengers are sometimes treated by the officials at *Alleged zoolum at Chausa.* Chausa needs looking into. A trustworthy correspondent, who was travelling by the Punjab down mail, relates that on arrival at Chausa, it was raining and the third-class passengers were drawn up for medical inspection on the platform, according to the usual practice. Finding that there was nobody to examine them, the passengers returned to the train to avoid a wetting, when the doctor appeared on the scene. The Inspector on duty then began belabouring the passengers, some of whom were caught by the neck and thrust out. The Inspector ought to be promptly relieved of duties for which apparently he is totally unfit, and these facts are recommended to the notice of the Hon'ble Mr. Baker, in the full confidence that steps will be taken to secure a more considerate treatment for the most helpless class of passengers at the inspection at Chausa. If anywhere, it is at Chausa that tactful and considerate officers are needed. There is much room for improvement in this direction.

A complaint is next made against the Lady Doctor, who came up to a second class compartment, the inmates of which were Hindu ladies of great respectability, and, standing on the platform, addressed the ladies in a somewhat peremptory manner, without any of those polite adjuncts which soften intercourse, thus :—"Come quickly, it is raining" She would not have behaved in this manner if English ladies were concerned. Politeness costs nothing ; and the staff at Chausa ought to have it impressed upon their minds, that they are the servants of the public and not their masters ; that the public are not under any obligation to them, but that they are under a deep obligation to the public for their pay and position ; and that the humble third-class passenger is one of their masters. These are unpleasant truths ; but they have to be brought home to officers whom nature has not taught the rudiments of politeness.

BENGALEE,
10th Jan 1901.

99. A correspondent informs the *Bengalee* of the 10th January that the Government of Bengal will invite the Bihar Land-holders' Association this time to nominate a member for the Bengal Council. The Maharaja of Darbhanga is the President of the Association, and he is a candidate for election to the Imperial Council by the Members of the Bengal Council. Practically, therefore, it comes to this, that the Government places a vote at the disposal of the Maharaja. The *Bengalee* was under the impression that the Bengal landholders had received an assurance from the Government that they would be invited to nominate a member, and gives the information for what it is worth, hoping its correspondent is misinformed.

BENGALEE,
9th Jan. 1901.

100. The *Bengalee* of the 9th instant hears that Mr. Nolan, Member of the Board of Revenue, is now at Hutwa. The administration of the Hutwa Raj under Mr. Markham has been the subject of keen criticism in the Press. The allegations of negligence or maladministration were clear and specific ; and the public have not yet heard whether Government has taken any action in the matter. It trusts Mr. Nolan will enquire into these allegations and take the public into his confidence. Nothing is gained by secrecy in matters of this kind.

101. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 9th instant refers to the rumour now afloat of the retirement of Nawab Bahadur Syed Amir Hossein in March next. It points out that he has filled the post of Presidency Magistrate,

Retirement of Nawab Bahadur Syed Amir Hossein.
Northern Division, most ably for the last 15 years, and has also made himself most popular. Under these circumstances, it hopes Government will give the Nawab a further extension.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th Jan. 1901.

102. The *Indian Mirror* of the 9th January shows that in a recent case the judgment of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Stanley has once more attracted attention to the vagaries of the

The Income-tax office.
Calcutta Income-tax office. It appears that a Nacoda gentleman, carrying on a fairly extensive business, both in Bombay and Calcutta, with his head-office in Bombay and a branch in Calcutta, paid the legal tax on his income in Bombay for his entire gettings. The Collector of the Income-tax office in Calcutta obtained a large amount, which had been already paid in Bombay, under a distress warrant, notwithstanding the fact that the true facts of the case were represented to him. The gentleman, who was compelled to pay the tax twice over, sought his remedy in the Calcutta High Court as against the Secretary of State, and his claim has been decreed fully with costs. Had he persevered with his original claim for damages, there is no doubt, after perusing Mr. Justice Stanley's judgment that he could have secured the damages also. Does Sir John Woodburn still think that the administration of the Calcutta Income-tax office calls for no independent enquiry?

INDIAN MIRROR.
9th Jan. 1901.

103. The vagaries of the Calcutta Income-tax office, says the *Bengalee* in an article in its issue of the 10th January, continue

Ibid.
and thinks that what is wanted is a thorough and exhaustive enquiry by a competent and impartial tribunal. It cannot understand why the Government should hesitate at all to order such an enquiry.

BENGALEE,
10th Jan. 1901.

104. The case of Babu Durga Prosad Dube, Nazir of the District Judge of Purnea, just decided by the Government of Bengal,

A hard case.
is a hard one, says the *Bengalee* of the 10th January. The District Judge reported to the Local Government that the Nazir was guilty of corruption. A regular enquiry was held and the Nazir was suspended and afterwards dismissed. Babu Durga Prosad Dube appealed against the order of dismissal; and the Government has now set aside the finding of the Judge in the case, and directed that the Nazir be reinstated in his appointment and transferred from Purnea to Rajshahi.

BENGALEE,
10th Jan. 1901.

Babu Durga Prosad is an Oudh man and has been domiciled in Bihar. He has never been to Bengal, and does not know Bengali. When the Government holds him innocent of the charges preferred against him, and not only reinstates him but permits him to count the period of suspension towards pension and orders him to draw full pay, it is hardly consistent with these orders to punish him by a transfer to such a remote district as Rajshahi. Babu Durga Prosad has submitted a fresh representation to Government, praying for a transfer to a Bihar district, which it is hoped the Government will grant.

105. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has a leader in its issue of the 10th January, on the cause of riots in India, which,

A plea for some sympathy for the people.
it says, are, oftentimes, due to official prejudice, obstinacy, ignorance, or indifference. Of course,

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many officials will resent this statement; but, as it is a fact and can be proved, it is hoped there are officials, frank and honest enough, who will admit it, as, for instance, the Hon'ble Mr. Rees admitted it. Even many cow-riots were due to the indiscretion of the officials. Hundreds of cow-riots occurred in India half-a-dozen of years ago, and in almost every case the officials, if they had minded it, could have stopped it. Let a Magistrate only vote that there should be no riot, and there would be none in his district. His position in India is supreme.

Riots also occur from official ignorance, perversity and tyranny. The first riot in India within the last decade was the Benares riot. It gave rise to many others, but how was it brought about? The authorities must desecrate a temple and the people tried their best to dissuade them from doing it. They prayed, implored, beat their breasts, and tore their hair to no purpose, and then the riot occurred. And the officials, whose *zid* caused it, were not

punished, but some respectable Banias of leading position in Benares, who were believed to be innocent by the people.

And were not the Poona murders due mainly to official incompetency? Horrible oppressions were practised and the people groaned in anguish. If they prayed for protection, they were snubbed. British soldiers entered sacred and forbidden places; they invaded the zenana; they made bonfires of even sacred objects; indeed, Tommy Atkins, with all his frolicsomeness and love of mischief, was, for once, let loose in that unfortunate city of Poona. The result was the tragedy.

The reason why British officers were murdered is also the reason for the plague riots in India. If the Government had not lost its usual sense and adopted more rational measures for the protection of the people from plague, there would have been no plague riot in India. If some officials had not fomented the racial differences between the Hindus and Mussalmans and encouraged the cow-riots, there would have been no plague-riots in India. The riots owe their origin to the indiscreet actions of the authorities; they owe their origin to retributive justice.

But what of that? asks the writer—it was the people who were made to suffer. They were sent to jail in batches; they were hanged, and ultimately they were made to pay the costs of punitive police forces. Now, may we enquire, if the authorities have the privilege of posting punitive police what is the good of highly-paid officials and a large force of police: The Magistrate who, possessing irresistible powers, and having to deal with a timid, law-abiding, and gentle race, yet wants the help of a police force for months and years to be able to keep certain parts of his district quiet only proves his incapacity. But when he prays for this additional help, he is not chid for his incapacity, but promptly given what he asks for. And that is because India is governed by the officials for the officials. The people here exist only to secure all possible comfort to the officials who hold sway over them.

The mischief is, the officials form a family, and to prefer any complaint against them is to cry in the wilderness. Let us, therefore, appeal to the generosity and good sense of the officials themselves and their chief. Cannot they manage things without putting the people to unnecessary inconvenience? Cannot they, on the whole, treat the people with more sympathy? An official who is good, does not put the people, who have to come to him, to any trouble. Indeed, every official can do it, only if he will do it. And cannot the local Governor issue a circular to his subordinates enjoining on them to avoid, by all means, giving the people unnecessary trouble in many matters, some of which we have mentioned above? Let us remind the rulers that, if they had not destroyed our own *panchayet* system, and replaced it by a costly system of their own, the people would have then not suffered, as they have to do now, on account of official heartlessness.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

BENGALEE,
6th Jan. 1901.

106. The *Bengalee* of the 6th January has the following:—

Injustice to coolies.

As a body of sensible and business-like people, the tea-planters of Assam have always their eyes wide open and will not allow the grass to grow under their feet. They asked for a second member to represent their interest in the Viceroy's Council, and their demand has been readily granted by the Government. As already announced, Mr. R. H. Henderson, of the Tarapore Tea Company, Limited, Cachar, has been appointed an extra additional member in connection with the Assam Emigration and Labour Bills. The unfairness of the step is obvious enough; for, while it strengthens the hands of these who are already strong enough to fight their battle, the case of the voiceless coolies remains unrepresented as ever. One asks in wonder how this piece of flagrant injustice has not struck the conscience of our rulers.

BENGALEE,
6th Jan. 1901.

107. In connection with Lord Curzon's order of repatriation of the grain merchant Ghisa Lal who was expelled from the Indore Residency limits, the *Bengalee* of the 6th January appeals to His Excellency to do away

Expulsions from Residency limits.

once for all with the punishment of expulsion from Residency limits, which is sometimes imposed upon persons, found guilty of offences for which they have already been adequately punished, and sometimes upon persons who have been guilty of no offence whatsoever but have been dismissed from the public service. This really amounts to a double punishment for which there is no adequate justification in the present condition of things in the Residency Bazars. It is the remnant of an old condition of things, which arms the authorities with a dangerous power, which, in a small community swayed by local prejudices, is liable to be attended with grave abuse. His Excellency is besought to introduce the Indian Codes (the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Civil Procedure Code) into the Residency Bazars. Justice is administered in accordance with the spirit of these Codes; but it is permissible to make deviations from them, subject to the discretion of those who administer the law. The writer is altogether opposed to the reign of discretion and presses for the substitution of the reign of law in its place. There is no strong public opinion in the Residency Bazars. There is no Press to ventilate the grievances of the people. The officials are very much left to themselves to do as they please; and under such circumstances it is positively dangerous to arm the local officials with the power of administering the law as it is laid down in the Codes or not as they please. The Residency Bazars are British territory, and British law ought to be enforced in them, in accordance with British procedure without the matter being left to the discretion of the authorities.

108. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 9th January says that the observations of Dewan Raghu Nath Rao on the subject of the Hindu religious endowments. demand for legislation for the better protection of Hindu religious endowments deserve special notice. The associations of the kind referred to by him for the purpose of watching trustees and committees and moving the courts when required, even if they were formed, would be practically impotent without the help of a law to compel the trustees to keep proper accounts and to provide for their regular audit and publication. A Hindu correspondent in a recent issue of the *Madras Mail* states the case for remedial legislation with great force and clearness. The writer endeavours to show that the objection of the Government of India that it is pledged not to interfere with the religious institutions and customs of the people is both irrelevant and inconsistent. It is irrelevant, because what is demanded is only legislation to provide those interested in a certain class of religious institutions with a remedy to prevent misappropriation and misapplication of their property and not an interference by the Government in any religious institution or custom, unless it be interference with an institution to protect it from spoliation. It is inconsistent because section 539 of the Civil Procedure Code empowers the courts, when applied to by any such person for the purpose, not only to redress misappropriation and misapplication, but to appoint new trustees; to rest properties in the trustees under the trust; to declare the proportions in which its funds can be applied to particular objects; to authorise the whole or any part of the property to be let, sold, mortgaged or exchanged; to settle a scheme for its management, and to grant such further relief as the nature of the case may require.

No Hindu would ask for further legislation, if recourse may be had to the courts under this section. Besides the different opinions among the courts themselves as to its interpretation, there are two chief reasons why this provision is not largely availed of. The first is the great difficulty of proving malversation in the absence of proper accounts. The second is the fact that "however important or wealthy the endowment may be, the cost of a suit in the Civil Courts is generally altogether disproportionate to any of the individual interests affected." The first difficulty would be greatly removed, if arrangement be made for keeping, auditing, and for publication of accounts. The writer under notice observes the impossibility of conceiving of any "scheme of management" being settled by the courts under section 539 of the Code, which did not include a system of account keeping and auditing, "so that the provision asked for would involve no intervention to which the Government is not already committed in any case in which ground for it might be made out to the satisfaction of the Civil Court. To remove the second difficulty various

HINDOO PATRIOT,
9th Jan. 1901.

proposals have been made as regards the constitution of Committees. To some of these the Government might reasonably object, for they would impose a great responsibility on itself in its executive capacity, or would tend to place a great power in the hands of a particular section of the community. These objections, however, are not applicable to the suggestion of Dewan Raghu Nath Rao that the members of Committees should be appointed by Civil Courts. But whatever might be the constitution of the Committees, the formation of private Associations, which he further suggests, would be of great effect in checking abuses and the lifting of the veil by which these endowments are at present shrouded would probably lead to their being generally formed."

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

INDIAN MIRROR,
9th Jan. 1901.

109. The *Indian Mirror* of the 9th instant publishes the following, re.,
the Maharaja of Mysore:—

Maharaja of Mysore.

The Maharaja of Mysore is, so to speak, still in his teens, and it will be some time yet before he is installed on the *guddi*. At present he is making a tour, accompanied by his English tutor, and the tour has an ostensibly educational purpose. The Maharaja promises to be an ideal ruler. But the promise is distant. We are, therefore, surprised that His Highness should have been made the recipient of a somewhat fulsome address on his landing at the Rangoon pier from the Indian, Burmese, and Chinese residents.

BENGALEE,
10th Jan. 1900.

110. "An observer" writing in the *Bengalee* of the 10th January says that Mr. R. P. Warburton in Sirmur an attempt is being made to retain permanently the services of Mr. R. P. Warburton, an Extra Assistant Commissioner of the Punjab Commission, who was appointed as District Collector and Magistrate by the Sirmur State for two years on a salary of Rs. 400 per month. The present ruler of Sirmur has been induced to enter

into an extraordinary arrangement, the principal provisions of which are to the following effect. As stipulated his services will be permanently retained by the State on a salary of Rs. 550; and in case he dies while in the State service, a pension of Rs. 70 per month will be paid to his widow for life, and an allowance of Rs. 25 to his child until its majority. Moreover, the State shall have to pay the usual contribution to the British Government for securing Mr. Warburton's pension. The matter is now before the British authorities for final settlement, and no doubt is entertained that the Government of India and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, under whose immediate political superintendence the State is thriving, will give their best consideration to the necessity and special advantage of permanently introducing a foreign element in a Native territory, which has been hitherto fairly and cheaply administered through competent Native agency, and the people of which are very poor and in a backward condition.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

MOSLEM
CHRONICLE,
29th Dec. 1900.

111. The *Moslem Chronicle* of the 29th ultimo publishes the following re plague:—

The plague.

It is gratifying to learn that plague is stationary or on the decline almost everywhere in India; but the mortality in Western Bengal, where the outlook cannot be said to be as rosy, is steadily rising, and things wear a very ugly look. Last week the number of plague deaths in Bengal districts was 1,310 compared with 1,081 in the preceding seven days. This is anything but reassuring, and it puts off *sine die* the date of our deliverance from the bondage of one of the most terrible scourges that ever afflicted mankind. And if the official returns can be trusted, the pestilence still smoulders in Calcutta like slow-fire in the absence of sufficient fuel to set it ablaze. But then, many of us believe that it is all a cock and bull story—this plague business in Calcutta—and we need not give it a moment's serious thought. But whether the plague in Calcutta still "boils and bubbles," or has ceased to give any more "toil and trouble," a fresh epidemic, according to the *Statesman*, has invaded our premises, and may play the very deuce with us before we are done with it. This is no other than the dreaded Malta fever which is said to have "shown" in Calcutta and Barrackpore.

112. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 4th January 1901 says that the element of tragedy is nowhere more apparent in the reports issued by the Government of India than in the annual return setting forth the mortality caused among human beings and cattle by the depredations of wild animals and snakes. Last year 2,966 people died from attacks by wild beasts, while the enormous number of 24,621 deaths from snake-bites was recorded. Bengal is by far the greatest sufferer, for the provincial figures in the returns show that this province lost 1,632 people through wild beasts and 12,220 through snakes. The relative destructiveness of the different animals is revealed in a table, showing that during the year 1899 persons were killed in India by tigers; 338 by wolves; 327 by leopards; 95 by bears; 40 by elephants; 27 by hyenas; and 1,230 by "other animals," chiefly jackals and crocodiles. Tigers are so destructive in Bengal that the desirability of devising special expeditions for their extermination was considered by the local Government, but it was eventually decided to leave the matter to local enterprise, "stimulated by the offer of liberal rewards."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
4th Jan. 1901.

113. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 4th January publishes the following communication from Patna:

Weather in Patna.

The weather is extremely foul and the plague is spreading from one end of the town to the other. People apprehend that this atmospheric change will tend to the increase of plague. The town is almost noiseless, as most of the hackney carriages are at a standstill. No carriage is seen to come from the station with passengers, and the few that run go to the station with passengers going away. Most of the houses are locked up, and the few that are open show signs of dismay and despair. A solemn silence reigns all day and night. All that is heard at the close of night are the cries and lamentations of the men and the women weeping over their dead or dying. The whole town is in despair and despondency dwells in every face.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th Jan. 1901.

114. The *Indian Mirror* of the 5th January publishes the following summary of the rainfall during the week:

Rainfall during the week.

There was some rain during the week in almost all districts of the Burdwan, Bihar and Chota Nagpur Divisions, as well as in Nadia, Jessore, Darjeeling, Dacca, and Cuttack. The rain has been beneficial to the *rabi* crops in Bihar. More rain is, however, needed in Nadia and Cuttack. It is also badly wanted in Murshidabad, Pabna and Malda. The harvesting of winter rice is being completed. *Rabi* crops are generally in good condition, except in Murshidabad. In Bihar the poppy crop is doing well. The pressing of sugarcane is in progress. Cattle-disease is reported from five districts. Fodder is generally sufficient. The price of common rice has fallen in 11 districts, risen in 14, and is stationary in the rest.

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th Jan. 1901.]

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

115. The *Moslem Chronicle* of 29th ultimo considers the Committee are playing a low game in getting Lord Curzon to

Unveiling of Lord Lansdowne's statue.

unveil Lord Lansdowne's statue; for, despite the fact that the political ideas of the two men are abso-

MOSLEM
CHRONICLE,
29th Dec. 1900.

lutely at variance, Lord Curzon will be forced to pronounce a eulogy of Lord Lansdowne, and "that's just the thing which the latter's friends and admirers have been angling for."

116. A correspondent writing in the *Bengalee* of the 4th January 1901, on the decadence of the Native Stage, says that

Decadence of the Native Stage.

in place of the excellent dramas and farces, which were formerly staged in the National and Royal Bengal Theatres, many Theatrical Companies have cropped up, which are more or less inclined towards indecency. They have produced vulgar dances, which attract numbers of young students nightly to the debasement of their minds and morals. The authorities of these Companies should remodel their pieces, or they will be paving the way not only to the ruin of students, but of grown-up men too. The Bioscope Company in the Classic Theatre is also exhibiting objectionable pictures. The writer hopes that the managers of native theatres will mend their ways and try to be a powerful factor in moulding public morals.

BENGALEE,
4th Jan. 1901.

BENGALEE,
4th Jan. 1901.

117. The Bankipore correspondent to the Bengalee of the 4th January High-handedness on the part of a Eurasian Deputy Magistrate in a Eurasian Deputy Magistrate in Bankipore.

The owner is a Barrister of the Calcutta High Court, whose position and income are said to be ten times superior to the Deputy Magistrate's, and it is pointed out that, if such acts of high-handedness can be practised with regard to gentlemen of the Barrister's status, the lot of the poor peasantry of Bihar can be easily conceived.

AMBITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th Jan. 1901.

118. The Amrita Bazar Patrika of the 4th January 1901 has the following leader on the Congress:—

A few questions and answers on the Congress.

Q.—What is the National Congress?

A.—It is an organization of representative

Indians, established for the purpose of taking stock of the disabilities under which they labour.

Q.—Are the representatives regularly elected?

A.—Not exactly. But they are the representatives of the country, all the same. They are the most intelligent and educated men of the country.

Q.—How do you prove it?

A.—By the fact the Congress leaders have been either appointed Judges of the High Court, or elected as members of Councils, Local and Imperial.

Q.—The defection of the Muhammadans shows that the Congress is not a representative body?

A.—The defection of the Mussalmans is a myth. It is known to everybody that the Mussalmans were subjected to powerful influences to lead them to give up the Congress. The influence succeeded with some and failed with others.

Q.—Yet the defection of a portion of the Mussalmans is a fact?

A.—It proves nothing. The difference between Hindus and Mussalmans is on religion, but the Congress is a political organization. That being the case, the religious difference has no *locus standi* in a dispute like this.

Q.—Why has India a National Congress, while no other countries have any?

A.—It is because India is under the despotic rule of an alien race. It is the only country in the world so peculiarly situated.

Q.—What led the people to hope that their deliberations would, in any way, influence the policy of their alien rulers?

A.—Many causes. First the alien rulers come of a noble race, who themselves are inordinately fond of good government for which they have fought and are fighting still. The alien rulers have promised often and often, in the most solemn manner, to give the Indians the best of governments in lieu of the national freedom they have taken from the people of this country. The rulers besides, knowing themselves to be aliens, and therefore not in touch with the people, encouraged them to speak out freely all their wishes, aspirations and grievances, so that they could be attended to.

Q.—Is the National Congress gaining strength?

A.—No, it is, on the other hand, failing.

Q.—What are the reasons?

A.—They are many. The rulers are unsympathetic; the methods are faulty, and the leaders have failed to do their duty.

Q.—What is your charge against the rulers?

A.—It is they who are indirectly the authors of the National Congress. It is they who encouraged the people to hope for better, and adopt constitutional agitation as a means for their deliverance. The rulers see that the Indians are doing their very best to secure their sympathy and good-will, yet they have not yet given them any response.

Q.—Why are the methods faulty?

A.—The members go to beg. This done, they disperse. The next year they again go to beg and again disperse. This they are doing these sixteen years. They see clearly that the Government has adopted the policy of silence to defeat them. As rational beings, they ought to have changed their methods which had proved ineffective.

Q.—What are the other methods?

A—There are many, but that is a large question. The other day we showed that the Congress have enough work in hand, if the leaders will give a new direction to the movement.

Q.—What are your objections to the leaders?

A—They have failed, that is all; more need not be said.

119. The *Indian Mirror* of the 4th January says that Lord Dufferin, as it suspected and said, has found himself in a tight hole, all because of his "trade associations."

"The Earl of Dufferin and Ava has had his round of good and bad fortune. Starting as an inpecunious Irish peer, but with almost as much wit as Sheridan, one of his progenitors, the noble lord did exceedingly well in the Diplomatic Service, because mainly," the writer states, "of the 'gift of the gab'—*not grab*, if you please." He became successively the Viceroy and Governor-General of Canada and India, and in the latter position, annexed Burma, and nearly annexed Cashmere. And now, concludes the writer, "he has been himself annexed. The whirligig of time brings—well, it brings insolvent trade associations, and Lord Dufferin cannot even get away to see his dying son in South Africa. It is a cruel destiny, as the Westerners love to cajole themselves with—we, the Indian savages, prefer to call the adjudication of the gods as *Karma*."

120. The *Bengalee* of the 4th January in a leaderette entitled "White *versus* Black" brings to notice that under the new Supervisors *versus* enumerators Circular of the Government of India, the Provincial Superintendent of Census Operations in Burma

requested the Accountant-General to furnish him with a list of assistants in his office showing the pay drawn by each. On receipt of the required list notices to serve as supervisors or enumerators were served on almost all the assistants in the office, from Superintendents in the second grade down to clerks in the supernumerary grade, under the signature of the President of the Rangoon Municipality. Native Superintendents drawing salaries above Rs. 200 per mensem were given *sanads* or commission as block enumerators, while Eurasian Assistant Superintendents and Auditors were made supervisors! The writer does not know whose remarkable genius is to be thanked for this queer anomaly. In the Accountant-General's office, the Native Superintendents are the official superiors of the Eurasian Assistant Superintendents and Auditors, but the order is reversed as soon as they enter the Census office, and the permanent subordinates become the temporary superiors of their permanent superiors. These orders will have the likely effect of giving a handle to the Eurasians to heap indignities on their superiors, whom as Indians they cannot but regard as natural inferiors, though they have to serve under them for the sake of their bread. This is, no doubt, a trifle; but these trifles go a long way to breed contempt and discontent.

121. The *Hindoo Patriot* in a leader of the 4th January 1901 cordially welcomes Lumsden's Horse to Calcutta, and says that they have returned covered with glory after gallantly fighting their Sovereign's battle, and it feels proud of them.

After recording his appreciation of the Viceroy's speech at the Reception, the writer says that his pleasure is not unmixed with regret. When Lumsden's Horse were being raised, the native chiefs, noblemen, and other representatives of the Indian subjects of Her Majesty begged of the Viceroy to allow them to go as volunteers and exhibit their loyalty to the British Throne on African fields. They were thanked by Government for offering their services, but those services were declined, on grounds, which it is difficult to comprehend. It is not understood why an Imperial Government should hesitate to avail themselves of services offered by loyal subjects of the Crown. Are we not all associated, concludes the leading article,—intimately associated and indissolubly connected—with our brethren, though differing in blood, residing in other parts of the British Empire? Has it not been repeatedly acknowledged that our loyalty is of sterling worth, and that we have shown during British troubles in Africa, by words and actions, that the British name and British prestige are dear to us, and that if an opportunity were given to us, we would guard British interests at the cost of our lives and property? In pursuance of a policy, the spirit of which we are unable to understand, we are rigidly excluded from participating in perils incurred and triumphs achieved by the British Government. Let

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us hope that British statesmen will see ere long the narrowness of their views respecting the military policy with regard to Indian subjects of Her Imperial Majesty.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th Jan. 1901.

122. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 5th January 1901 has the following article on India a hundred years ago:—

India a hundred years ago. An esteemed correspondent, referring to our London letter of this week, observes that his eyes glistened with tears when he read it. Yes, in that letter it is an Englishman who describes our condition,—what we were one hundred years ago and what we are now. We had then our own ships to carry our own goods. Mr. Cola in his book describes how, when India calico penetrated London, nay every household of England, the British Parliament forcibly stopped its import. Japan was a poor country; it was civilized by the Hindus, but it has a navy of its own, and a big shipping trade. But what are we, though we are three hundred millions strong, though the people are in no way inferior to the other races of the world, and though we have a country of our own, the finest in the world? It is wrong to say that we owe our fall to the wickedness of England. England came at a time when she was needed; God sent her here to protect the country from the ravages of internecine quarrels. It is a pity that England pursued a wrong policy; for, if she had followed the right policy, India would have prospered under her rule. But if England is responsible for having introduced a policy of repression in ruling the country, we, too, are largely responsible for our fall. We have shown times without number how many of our grievances are removable and how they can be removed by our own efforts only. Even now, though we have arrived at the lowest grade of degradation, there is no awakening. Yet the same internecine quarrels, the same selfishness, the same apathy prevail, which caused the country to fall into the hands of invading hordes from Persia, Afghanistan, and Mongolia. Will Lord Curzon save the country as he indirectly promised he would try? The Indians do not want much; they want direction and support. Why do not the Government take charge of the National Congress? Why does not the Viceroy preside over its deliberations? Why do not the Magistrates take charge of the District Committees of the Congress? How long shall this gulf between the ruled and the rulers continue, necessitating the maintenance of a huge white garrison? May God save India!

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th Jan. 1901.

123. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 5th January 1901 publishes extracts from an Irish newspaper called the *United Irishman*,

Trial by Jury in Ireland. on the subject of Trial by Jury in Ireland, with special reference to the case of Cadogan, an Irish peasant, who shot his English landlord, Bird, in Cork, in July last. It makes certain observations on the disloyalty of the Irish people and the seditious utterances of the Irish Press, and the danger an Indian journalist runs of being accused of sedition if, by chance, an article or a paragraph is reproduced from an Irish paper, especially the *United Irishman*, which teaches the people of this country that they are punished for their virtues and the Irish are rewarded for their crimes.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
5th Jan. 1901.

124. It is with real pleasure that the *Hindoo Patriot* in its leader of the 5th January 1901 notices the instructions issued by Mr. Nolan for the guidance of executive officers as regards their manner towards, and intercourse

Attitude of Executive Officers towards the people. with the natives of the country. The broad views and the generous sympathies of Mr. Nolan are keenly appreciated, and he is looked upon as a real friend of the people. He has completely gained the confidence of those with whom he has come into contact, and he completely realises the value of such confidence from an administrative point of view. The spirit that animates him in issuing the instructions under notice cannot be too highly admired. If all officers were like Mr. Nolan, the art of governing Indians would not have been so difficult, as it has been represented to be. They want sympathy for their thoughts and feelings, and if this be given to them, they will return it tenfold in value by love and respect.

The rest of the article is a friendly review of Mr. Nolan's instructions, which the writer hopes will be accepted and followed in the spirit in which they have been given, and that they will attain the object which he has in view.

125. The *Bengalee* of the 5th January 1901 has a leader on the session of the Indian National Congress which closed at The Lahore Congress.

BENGALEE,
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Lahore on Saturday last, which it says was a great and unqualified success. The truth was proved once again that the movement has now arrived at a stage when it is independent of persons and when its vitality would carry it along, even though the most illustrious of its members were to fall. Great as was the loss which the Congress party had sustained by the death of Bakshi Jaishi Ram, of the Punjab, his death called to the front, among others, Rai Kali Prosonno Roy, Bahadur, the Chairman of the Reception Committee, and Mr. Harkissen Lal, its Secretary, who worked with a zeal and devotion and single-mindedness of purpose which excited the admiration of all. The most noticeable feature of this year's Congress was its moderation and sobriety, its genuine anxiety to reduce its programme and seek the co-operation of the officials in the carrying out of that programme. It is said that several European officials of high position attended this year's meeting of the Congress, and they went away very much impressed with what they saw. The Congress recorded a Resolution expressive of its gratitude to Lord Curzon for the benevolence of his famine policy and for his anxiety to uphold the interests of law and justice in those cases where Europeans are the accused and Indians are the aggrieved parties. No one is prepared to pass an unqualified panegyric upon Lord Curzon's policy or measures. There are features in His Excellency's policy which are open to the gravest objection. But the Congress showed by the Resolution that it was prepared to accord praise where praise was due, and that it did not merely confine itself to the thankless task of fault-finding. A deputation is also to wait upon his Excellency in regard to the question of the separation of judicial and executive functions; of land assessment and the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the causes of famine with a view to the ultimate adoption of remedial measures. The Congress is apparently resolved that nothing shall be wanting on its part to establish harmonious relations between the representatives of the popular party and the leaders of the official hierarchy.

In another respect the Congress made a notable departure. A Committee was appointed this year to formulate proposals to help forward the industrial movement. It has been resolved to devote half a day in each year's Congress to discuss industrial questions. A permanent footing has thus been ensured to industrial considerations at every session of the Congress; and much good will arise from the opportunity which will thus have been offered to focuss the knowledge and experience of all India once a year in regard to industrial questions.

126. The *Bengalee* of the 5th January says that a Muhammadan gentleman writes to a Lucknow contemporary to say that Muhammadans and the Congress Mr. Alfred Nundy is very much mistaken if he thinks that the Muhammadans have, as a class, changed their views in regard to the Congress or ceased to worship at the shrine of the departed Sir Syed of Aligarh. The writer in the *Bengalee* contends that Mr. Nundy has, in the course of his protracted peregrinations, had far better opportunity of gauging Muhammadan sentiment all over the country than many Muhammadan leaders—or followers for the matter of that—not even excepting, perhaps, the Muhammadan correspondent himself, and asserts that, so far, therefore, from disproving Mr. Nundy's conclusions, the letter under reference only proves this, that there are still some Muhammadans, presumably sane and certainly at large, who believe in division and in the dog-in-the-manger policy and would fling away in impotent ill-temper and scorn the olive branch waved by the other side.

BENGALEE,
5th Jan. 1901.

127. The *Indian Mirror* of the 5th January, writing on the subject of the unveiling of the Marquis of Lansdowne's statue by Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore and the unveiling of Lord Lansdowne's statue.

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th Jan. 1901.

His Excellency the Viceroy, says that it is notified that Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore will propose a vote of thanks to His Excellency for performing the function. The writer says it is very amiable of the Maharaja to consent to take this part at the ceremony, but hopes the Maharaja has not forgotten what his own countrymen think of Lord Lansdowne's Vicereignty, or the treatment he himself received on one memorable—

almost historic—occasion from Sir Phillip Hutchins, Lord Lansdowne's chief adviser and—as not a few would have it—evil genius. But the Maharaja, of course, knows his own business best.

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th Jan. 1901.

128. The *Indian Mirror* of the 5th January, in a leading article on the subject of an "Imperial Army," a scheme of which was formulated last year by Mr. McLaren Morrison, and was warmly supported by the *Englishman* and others, informs its readers that the *Morning Post* of London has also taken up the question and suggested that, as a preliminary to any scheme of Imperial Federation, a Committee of skilled experts should be appointed to consider the whole question of the functions of the Army and Navy in regard to the defence of the Empire, and the best method of providing for the adequate representation of the Colonies and India in the commissioned grades, and in the rank and file of both the Services, so as to render them really Imperial bodies.

Referring to the *Englishman's* comments, which are regarded as "just and generous," on this proposition, the writer expresses his thankfulness for the somewhat unusual attitude of the *Englishman*, but says that the matter is of such vast importance that it cannot be settled off-hand by a few newspapers published in Calcutta or London. He proceeds to add:—The prejudice of whites against the coloured races is thicker than the Great Wall of China, and much more impenetrable. The writer knows how Indians are treated in the British Colonies, in Australasia and South Africa. It might be that Indian Princes and other aristocrats might be just tolerated in the British Imperial Army because of the length of their purse, but it will be very long before Mr. McLaren Morrison's scheme will take shape. Yet the new century may have, after all, some gratifying surprises for this country. The very attitude of the *Englishman* in this matter is one of them.

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
6th Jan. 1901.

129. The *Power and Guardian* of the 6th January speaks in feeling terms of the death of Rai Jogendra Chandra Mitter Bahadur, late Detective Superintendent of the Calcutta Police.

BENGALEE,
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Death of Rai Jogendra Chandra Mitter Bahadur.
130. The *Bengalee* in its editorial of the 6th January thinks that Mr. Nolan's instructions, which are warmly approved of, will bridge the gulf which has long existed between the rulers and the ruled and establish friendly relations between them.

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
6th Jan. 1901.

Last year's measures and events.
131. The *Power and Guardian* of the 6th January in a leader, five columns in length, reviews the events of the year 1900, and begins by commenting on the famine and the efforts made by the authorities to combat it. From that subject it passes to the consideration of the economic condition of India, and is forced to express its forebodings for the future of the country where the average agriculturist earns Rs. 17. The Welby Commsision's report has shown the illegitimate drains on the Indian Exchequer, and if to these are added diplomatic expeditions outside India and the maintenance of an expensive army within it, it is certainly not strange if the country should be taxed to the uttermost. The rules issued last year for the granting of passes to soldiers out shooting find favour, while the orders for the employment of Eurasians in Government offices are pronounced to be an anomalous departure from the path of justice and rectitude. The year rung out was signalized by the revocation of the oppressive plague measures all over the country. The writer appeals to those who have charge of the destinies of the Indians to respect their social and religious prejudices, the violation of which alone led to the Cawnpore and Bairia riots of last year. He also refers to the Indian National Congress which, he says, is gaining ground year by year, and will at no distant date be a powerful institution from its representative character.

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
6th Jan. 1901.

132. The *Power and Guardian* of the 6th January says that the immense popularity which Mr. Beatson-Bell is gaining in Barisal should indeed afford a lesson to his brethren in the service. From reports to hand it would appear that the District Magistrate is determined to die a poor man, and that for India alone. It is mentioned that in famine days he would distribute money among the needy. A pleasing but instructive tale reaches the writer. When on tour some time

ago, he found a boy carrying two pieces of *papiya*, crying. Learning that the local "Daroga" Babu had forcibly taken a piece of the fruit from him, and, when asked for the price, had driven the boy away, saying that he would afterwards pay whatever price the remaining piece would fetch, Mr. Bell paid the boy a ten-rupee note, took the fruit from him, and followed him to the thana. The boy was instructed to demand rupees ten from the Sub-Inspector for the *papiya*. On the daroga refusing, Mr. Bell remonstrated with him until he paid the boy Rs. 10.

133. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 7th January is gratified to note that

Mechanically pulled punkahs in
regimental barracks.

orders have been issued for a more extensive equipment in barracks of mechanically pulled punkahs, by which, as a consequence, the punkah

cooly will proportionately disappear from those quarters. This change has long been wished for owing to frequent assaults made by soldiers on punkah coolies, especially in the hot weather, and Government has done well to consider how to remove the occasion for the mischief.

134. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* subjects the organization of the Indian National Congress to a friendly criticism in a lengthy leader in its issue of the 7th January.

It has noticed the charge of apathy made against Bengal at Lahore and Madras, and endeavours to explain the cause of the absence from the Lahore Sessions of such Bengali leaders as W. C. Bonnerji, A. M. Bose, Kali Charan Banerji, Baikanta Nath Sen, Ambica Charan Mazumdar, Harendra Nath Dutta and others.

The blame for this state of affairs the writer lays on the shoulders of those in charge of the organization.

"For sixteen years they have controlled the movement. The country gave them absolute powers, whatever was wanted of them, and whatever was possible for them to give. The Congress began with the brightest of prospects. The whole country backed it, rich and poor. Lord Dufferin himself gave it a warm support, money flowed freely like water. Parliament, or rather the English nation, felt that the time was at last come when it would be impossible to refuse the legitimate demands of the Indians.

But alas! What do we see now? All our prospects gone. Lord Dufferin, who gave the organization a warm embrace, threw it overboard when leaving these shores. Sir Syed Ahmed, as a leader of the Mussalman, was a warm advocate in the beginning; he ended as an inveterate enemy. The non-official Europeans, the Eurasians, the Bengal zamindars, all had joined the organization with warmth. But they have now all left the organization. Even those who gave it birth are one by one leaving it. And now if one says that the organization is not flourishing, those who had managed it with absolute sway these sixteen years silence their critics by the cry of treason."

It would seem to the writer that the same reason that actuates many educated Babus who no longer believe in the utility of the ceremony, to celebrate the Durga Puja in Bengal, viz., because their fathers and grand-fathers performed it, leads them to support the Congress. It is held annually because it would be a disgrace to give it up, and "our enemies would laugh at us." It is a simple matter to follow the methods of preceding Congresses—erect a hall, welcome the delegates, elect a President, form a Subjects Committee, frame resolutions, deliver some brilliant speeches, and everything is ended by three cheers to the Queen, and by the 1st January everything that happened is quite forgotten.

The writer concludes as follows:—

"The conception of the Congress is faulty. Its very constitution is so that it is impossible to make it a living thing. What is a Congress? It is a begging body. The Indians assemble every year to beg and then disperse, to assemble again the next year. Such an organization can never succeed. The Government has got used to the wails of these beggars and it no longer pays the slightest heed to them and, as for the beggars, everyone has a limited quantity of patience. They have been begging these sixteen years unsuccessfully and their patience has been exhausted. It is therefore, even persons who are intimately connected with the movement from its very beginning, failed to

HINDOO PATRIOT,
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attend the gathering this year. To make it a living thing, other features should be added to the Congress."

INDIAN NATION,
7th Jan. 1901.

135. The *Indian Nation* of the 7th January has an article on American Homeopathic M. D.'s and the value of such degrees. It specially notices a letter to the *Bengalee* written by one "Sarat Chandra Ghose, M.D., " and a manifesto issued by another M.D. named "Rai Saroda Kanto Lahiri" on the subject of these degrees, and asks in what college the former obtained his medical education and what college conferred on him the degree, and enquires if the latter is sure that he has not been duped into believing that he obtained his degree after having passed an examination.

136. The *Indian Nation* in reproducing in its issue of the 7th instant the rules published by Mr. Nolan for the guidance of executive officers in their conduct towards the people says that the instructions are all that could be desired. They could not be better conceived or better stated. It only hopes they will be followed by the officers to whom they are addressed. To secure obedience to the instructions and make them a permanent table of commandments to the executive, would it not be desirable to have them endorsed and confirmed by even a higher authority than Mr. Nolan's? They are, however, authoritative already and they seem to mark an era in the administration of these provinces.

137. The *Indian Nation* of the 7th January observes in regard to the statement made by Mr. Chandavarkar at the Social Conference that no practical work had been done by the Conference, that none is likely to be done so long as the Conference pursues its present methods. Society will not recognise as authoritative the voice of the Conference, constituted as it is. Two things are necessary. In place of a general Social Conference there have to be established special conferences for particular portions of the country and for particular communities. Social problems are not the same for every part of the country and for every community, and it is useless discussing them in a large miscellaneous body consisting of representatives of many castes and of various parts of the country. They are particular and relative, and have to be discussed by local bodies. In the next place, these bodies should consist of pandits entitled to interpret shastras, and of social leaders. Society will respect the opinion of none others. The writer hopes to be excused for making a personal reference. Mr. Chandavarkar, he finds, performed a Brahmo service at Lahore. Presumably, then, he is a Brahmo. If he is one, is it likely that his opinion on a social question will be respected by the Hindu community? The Kshetri Conference is likely to influence the Kshetri community. A Kayastha Conference will have influence over the Kayastha community. But a body like the Social Conference will not command influence over any community.

138. The *Indian Nation* of the 7th January says it never expected from the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerjea the remark that Government sought to muzzle the leaders of the Congress by offering them High Court Judgments, and that the way to the bench was through the presidential chair. It rather thought Government was entitled to the gratitude of the people for its fairness and generosity to men fit for elevation to the bench, and its utter indifference to their politics. It takes this occasion to remark that the latitude Government allows to pensioners in discussing politics, is also worthy of the grateful acknowledgments of the people. If remarks like Mr. Banerjea's are to be made, Government may well retort that political life and public spirit in India are little better than names, if conspicuous leaders are willing to sever their connection with popular movements when confronted with the allurements of office. Government appoints men as judges not in consequence of, but in spite of their being leading Congressmen. And really what is to be thought of public life in a country where public affairs are only an occasional holiday occupation of busy, professional men accustomed to do only remunerative work who are prepared to give up politics altogether if invited to accept the trammels of some suitable office? Public Duty is not a Goddess that will consent to divide the throne with Place, Title and Money.

139. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, in its issue of the 7th May, noticing the *Pioneer's* criticisms of the native Press in its article Disarming the district of Barisal. on the increase of crime in Bengal, points out that the *Pioneer* would make the people of India weaker and the officials stronger. Referring to certain incidents in London in which fire-arms were used and people killed and wounded, it asks "why are Indians to be treated so unsympathetically for crimes which are almost encouraged in London?" Is London disarmed? Is the Government going to post a punitive police force there? The people of India are as much creatures of God and subjects of the Queen as the Londoners are. The Londoners get all the mercy, the Indians all the justice.

AMRITA BAZAR
Patrika,
7th May, 1900.

140. A correspondent writing in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 7th instant, on the degeneration of India at the end Deterioration of Indians. of the 19th century, finds that Indians are declining by leaps and bounds, in social and religious matters. "The terrible visitations which have been of frequent occurrence during the past few years and which," says the writer, "have brought the greatest troubles and suffering undeniably prove that natives are bound to suffer so long as they are not sound and strong in society and religion. Social and religious regeneration is what is absolutely needed, and when that is done, their condition will be bettered, and we shall be in a better position to ask for political privileges.

AMRITA BAZAR
Patrika.
8th Jan. 1901.

141. The *Indian Mirror* in an article in its issue of the 8th January Object of Sir J. Woodburn's says that its surmise in regard to the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Bihar has proved correct. It is visit to Bihar. now admitted to be due solely to his philanthropic desire "to console the people in their bereavements on account of the ravages of plague."

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th Jan. 1901.

142. The *Indian Mirror* of the 8th January says that the late Lord William Beresford's Anglo-Indian admirers wish to Memorial to Lord William Beresford. perpetuate his memory—for what good done, they alone know. The writer will not be surprised if the names of a few "Natives" are found in the list of subscribers.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th Jan. 1901.

143. The *Indian Mirror* of the 8th January has the following comments on the *Statesman's* article on the merits of Lord Lansdowne.—

INDIAN MIRROR,
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"Our contemporary states that 'with the one exception of the closing of the Indian Mints, the credit of which he would be probably the first to disavow, it would be difficult to point to a single act of his Viceroyalty by which Lord Lansdowne can be held to have established a claim to the gratitude of any section of Her Majesty's Indian subjects.' Again, 'he was unable even for an hour to emancipate himself from the leading strings in which councillor and courtier were only too anxious to hold him, and by which he was drawn into more than one dangerous pitfall.' The *Statesman* is equally plain-spoken about the Jury Notification, and endorses our own repeated opinion on the subject: 'It is wholly incredible that he should have possessed enough neither of the instinct of statesmanship nor of the knowledge of history and men to have restrained him from endorsing that blunder without adequate enquiry and without consulting the men whose position marked them out as his natural advisers in such a matter, if he had not yielded himself to the obsession of a stronger will than his own.' Yes, that stronger will was that of Sir Phillip Hutchins who bluntly informed the leading 'Native' citizen of Calcutta in this connection that 'the Natives had no business to think for themselves, and the bureaucracy would do all the thinking for them.' The *Statesman's* final pronouncement is, that Lord Lansdowne showed less regard than any other Viceroy of recent times 'for the feelings and opinions of the non-official community, Native or European.' And yet it is mainly owing to the initiative of a few non-official Europeans of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Stock Exchange that the statue has taken shape. The scandalous things are possible only in this unfortunate country."

144. The following leader contributed by Babu Shishir Kumar Ghose, What the National Congress is appears in the columns of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and what it ought to be. of the 8th January:—

AMRITA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
8th Jan. 1901.

It was stated some time ago that when Mr. Hume wanted to organize the National Congress, he conferred with Babu

Shishir Kumar Ghose, the then editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. Babu Shishir Kumar stated his views which were not exactly favourable to the scheme proposed by Mr. Hume. The former was asked, by some of his friends, to explain what those views were, and he replied that he did not remember the exact words that passed between him and Mr. Hume. But he was willing to give his views on this important subject which he has never changed. They are given below in his own words:—

"India being ruled by aliens, the rulers are apt to commit mistakes. The Indians resolved to point them out to those who ruled them. That is the origin of the National Congress.

"If the rulers had kept themselves utterly aloof from the ruled, the latter would have, in their turn, left the rulers alone. In that case, the ruled would have adopted other means than political agitation for the amelioration of their condition.

"The rulers were not willing that the Indians should adopt any other means than political agitation for the purpose. They were opposed to the policy of letting the Indians alone. For, they feared that if they left the Indians alone to adopt other means than political agitation, unruly people would plan mischief.

"Means other than political there are many. Of these some are illegitimate and therefore dangerous; others are legitimate and feasible. But, for reasons to be explained presently, the means of political agitation suited the rulers best. They, therefore, tempted the people to adopt political agitation as the only means for the removal of their grievances and for the improvement of their condition.

"How this was done we all know. All members of the British Indian Association in Bengal were honoured and petted by the Government. Why? Because they had adopted political agitation, and had, by their example, led the ignorant and unruly to avoid mischievous courses and follow their methods.

"The rulers tempted the people of India to adopt political agitation for two reasons. One was, as we said before, that unless the people were led to it, they would adopt mischievous methods. The other was a curious one, to which we beg to draw the special attention of our readers. For it is an important point which we should never forget.

"By methods other than political agitation, the people would have sought to acquire unlimited and uncontrolled power, that is to say, to acquire power not controlled by the Government. But if the people adopted political agitation the Government secured all the power to itself.

"The Government has always jealously tried to keep every power in its own hands. Naturally, therefore, the power-loving Government prefers nomination to competitive examination or election. Even where the Government was obliged to adopt competitive examination or election, it always kept the power of confirmation to itself.

"Let us illustrate the position by two examples why political agitation transfers the power into the hands of the Government and other methods enable the people to keep it to themselves.

The outstill system, by which drunkenness is encouraged, is objected to. But we can remove the evil by two ways one is to stop drinking, and the other is to petition the Government for its removal. The latter method is 'political agitation,' the former is 'other than political agitation.'

"If we petition the Government, that is to say, adopt political agitation, we leave the power entirely to the Government. But if we adopt the first, which is other than the political method, we ignore the Government altogether, and take the matter entirely in our own hands.

"It is, thus we think, made clear why the Government prefers political agitation to other methods, and why the Government tempted the people to adopt it. It is thus made clear that the National Congress is the legitimate outcome of the policy of the Government, and that by adopting political agitation the Indians had played into the hands of the Government.

"We admit most freely that political agitation is the only rational method suited to all civilized people. But there is a marked difference between the people of India and other nationalities. In other countries, political agitation is backed by an irresistible force, but here it has nothing to back it.

"Thus, in other countries, the people complain and agitate, and those in power have to listen to their complaints. For, if they do not do it, they are

ruthlessly turned out. But here in India, if the governing members turn a deaf ear to the complaints of the people, they run no risk whatever.

"Political agitation in India, thus means begging, pure and simple. Beggars come at the door and are driven away, and the householder suffers nothing by it. The National Congress reduces the people to the condition of abject beggars and raises the Government to the position of absolute master. The National Congress is thus an organisation which has elevated the Government and lowered the people.

"The Government, very naturally, now takes advantage of its position. The National Congress begs for favours and the Government refuses them. That is the precise position.

"But the National Congress, which is now a begging body, ought to be the helpmate of the Government. The rulers are aliens, and, therefore, very much apt to commit mistakes. Let the Congress not only point them out, but also try to remove as much of the evils arising out of them as it possibly can.

"So, in the above, we lay down two propositions. When we say that the National Congress should point out the mistakes of the Government, we admit the necessity of political agitation and acknowledge that it would not do to give up political agitation altogether. And when we say that the National Congress should try to remove the evils as far as that is possible, we contend that it is in the power of the National Congress to do it.

"Be it remembered that we can remove many of our grievances by our own exertions.

"The National Congress, constituted as it is, is only a begging body, political agitation being its life and soul. Take political agitation out of it and it ceases to exist.

"But it ought to be a begging body and something more, namely, that it ought also to exert itself to do some work on its own account. It has plenty of work to do. There are beggars who sit idly at the door and beg; but we have seen at least one beggar who was carrying some jute with him and spinning it while begging at the door.

"The National Congress must not give up political agitation, but it should realise also the fact that its efforts have hitherto failed. Let us try to find out why. In India whenever we prefer a demand, we ask the rulers of the land to part with something they cherish as valuable. They cannot serve us without injuring their own interest, fancied and real. Thus, if you ask for the separation of the two functions, Judicial and Executive, or if you demand trial by jury, the officials oppose, because, by granting your prayers, they part with power they possess now.

"In England the people are the real masters. The English public are not interested in opposing our demands. So the National Congress must try not so much to move the Indian authorities as the people in England. England must be the theatre of action."

145. The Hindoo Patriot of the 8th January writes that His Excellency

Lord Curzon's address at the unveiling of Lord Lansdowne's statue.

the Viceroy's address at the ceremony of unveiling the statue of the Marquis of Lansdowne, was a master-piece. Lord Curzon is a perfect master in the art of addressing large assemblies, but on this

occasion he seemed to have even surpassed himself. Lord Lansdowne will be immensely gratified by what such a competent judge as Lord Curzon said about him. If report speaks true, Lord Curzon will occupy, before long, the same sphere of action as the noblemen whose statue he unveiled, and it must be gratifying to him also that an opportunity has been given to him to mark his appreciation of the services of his predecessor in the Viceregal *munsud*. Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendra Mohun Tagore proposed a vote of thanks to His Excellency in a felicitous speech, which, for its good taste and happy choice of words, cannot be too highly admired. The Maharaja Bahadur's natural genius in making short and appropriate speeches on all important public occasions is simply unrivalled.

146. In its leading article of the 9th January, the Hindoo Patriot on the subject of Sir Patrick Playfair's remarks on the The Lansdowne Memorial Fund. contributions made by native Chiefs and noblemen to the fund for raising a memorial to Lord Lansdowne, says that when the question of the movement was under consideration,

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grave apprehensions were entertained as to its success. Considerable opposition was manifested in certain quarters towards such a movement. One of the acts of His Lordship's administration, which has since proved a dead letter, was strenuously opposed by all classes of the Hindu community in this province, as it struck at the very foundations of the Hindu society. It was feared that wealthy Hindu noblemen would in a body abstain from subscribing to the Fund. This was a serious situation, and the friends and admirers of Lord Lansdowne felt that it would be risking the reputation of His Lordship if a movement for a memorial were started and it collapsed for want of funds.

The British Indian Association, the premier political Association of the province, was appealed to ; but the Association could not, consistently with the action it had taken in the Consent Bill agitation, support the memorial movement; but it left its individual members free to adopt any course they thought proper. Some of the leading organs of Indian public opinion denounced the movement, and thus the difficulty experienced at its initiation was seen to be almost insurmountable. The friends and admirers of His Lordship could not prevail upon themselves to hold a public meeting at the Town Hall to consider the question of adopting measures to perpetuate the memory of His Lordship. It was anticipated that opposition would be shown at the meeting if such a meeting was held. The idea of a public meeting was given up, and the organisers of the movement felt despondent. When the movement was all but abandoned, a communication was received from a wealthy Indian nobleman, since deceased, who was an ardent admirer of Lord Lansdowne, and who expressed his sincere sympathy with the movement.

This communication was of a very important character. It strongly advised the organisers of the movement to open a subscription list without delay, and the nobleman himself guaranteed Rs. 90,000, which it was estimated, at the then rate of exchange, would be the cost of the statute. Telegrams were at once despatched to Native Chiefs and noblemen in all parts of the province, and the replies which were promptly received showed that the movement would be extremely popular in all parts of the country. Substantial contributions were promised and the success of the scheme was assured. The nobleman who guaranteed the Fund did not wish his name to be known. When the success of the Fund was no longer doubted, he himself subscribed a handsome amount. It was to him that the Fund was greatly indebted, and we were rather disappointed when we did not notice any acknowledgments to him from the Chairman of the Executive Committee. Perhaps Sir Patrick Playfair felt it very delicate to allude to the nobleman's connection with the Fund, because he strictly prohibited the Executive Committee from making any mention of his aid to the Fund. The fact, however, ought to be known for had it not been from him, the Memorial Fund would never have been in existence, and it would never have been known how Lord Lansdowne's services as Viceroy were valued and appreciated in this country.

The writer then criticizes some of Lord Dufferin's acts during his Vice-royalty and concludes by pointing to Lord Curzon's feeling references to Lord Lansdowne's charm of manner.

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PATRIKA,
9th Jan. 1901.

BENGALEE,
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147. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 9th instant takes upon itself to answer the question "What do you want?" put to Mr. Nandy by the representative of the *Civil and Military Gazette* anent the Congress. The *Amrita* wants "a fair treatment" and "if that does not do, it wants what every British subject enjoys—self-Government." It considers it strange that any Englishman should have the hardihood to ask an Indian what, he wants' as if he has everything or anything. The Indian has nothing, he has everything to want. He has not even the power to appoint a village chaukidar.

148. The *Bengalee*, while repeating the story of Mr. Bell, the daroga and the boy with the *Papiyas* (told in paragraph 132 *supra*), remarks that there are few Magistrates in the service who are as popular as Mr. N. D. Beatson-Bell, Magistrate of Barisal. "His heart overflows with the milk of human kindness, and though occupying the highest position in the district, he has been seen attending to the wants of suffering humanity like a ministering angel, and has been known to be unstinted in his charities, which, however, are not made for bringing him fame in the columns

of newspapers, or for his name being included in the Honours' Gazette. He has not the exclusiveness of his proud race and does not feel ashamed to mix with the children of the soil."

149. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 9th instant refers to the Government Circular re appointment of Eurasians.

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of India circular relating to the appointment of Eurasians and domiciled Europeans in subordinate posts carrying salaries of Rs. 30 and upwards. It quotes a long passage from the *Hindoo*, which is of opinion that His Excellency is disposed to afford this artificial help to domiciled European and Eurasians, and that, in his opinion, the latter cannot climb up without artificial pulleys and ropes in the shape of "a certain proportion of the appointments."

The *Amrita* agrees with the *Hindoo*, and remarks further, that there is apparently no question about the genuineness of the circular. The *Hindoo* only confirms its belief when it says that it had also heard of a similar circular having been issued in Madras. Indeed, the Government of India being the author of the circular, it is but natural that it is meant for all the Presidencies of India. The *Amrita* thinks, however, Lord Curzon had no idea of the mischief which such a circular was likely to do when he gave his sanction for its promulgation. Perhaps he was led to believe that Eurasians and domiciled Europeans were being excluded from certain posts in Government offices through the cliquism of Indian ministerial officers; and, in order to test the accuracy of the statement, he consented to issue the letter in question with a view to learn whether really such cliques exist in Government offices to the detriment of the interests of the "Poor Whites." It has no objection to such an enquiry being made, in fact it will be glad to support the action of the Government if it protects the Eurasians and domiciled Europeans from the alleged unjust encroachments of the Indians upon their rights. But then, justice and fairness require that similar enquiries should be made into the allegations of the Indians that they have been practically expelled from all posts of Rs. 200 and upwards in the special departments. According to the terms of the Royal Proclamation, Government appointments ought to be conferred upon only really meritorious persons, irrespective of creed, colour, and caste. Every Viceroy is bound to respect this provision of the Queen's Proclamation. From this point of view, the grievances of any particular community, because they are backward, have no leg to stand upon. They must first deserve and then desire. They must acquire the necessary educational qualifications to hold a Government post, and it is then only that their claims can be listened to. We expect Lord Curzon to act up to this principle, and then no community will have any legitimate cause of grievance against him. As regards the Hindus, they are superior to other communities in India, both in number and education. If the majority of the petty posts are in their hands, it should not, therefore, cause any surprise or heart-burning. On the other hand, an attempt to expel them from these appointments and fill them with Eurasians and domiciled Europeans of no or very little education will naturally create deep indignation in the country.

150. The *Indian Mirror* of the 9th instant points out that about twenty thousand time-expired British troops must be sent home, as soon as the orders detaining them in

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Troops in India. India are removed. This means that the men have been detained beyond the period of their contract, and can, if they choose, claim compensation—which ought to be a charge on the Home Government. Besides, the orders detaining these time-expired soldiers in India are not likely to reach Government soon. Every day requires fresh batches for fighting in South Africa. And will Government regard with complacence the renewed denudation of this country of troops, British and Indian? If it did, the Congress argument must prevail, that India has for years together been saddled with the cost of a useless army.

151. The *Indian Mirror* of the 9th instant publishes a leaderette questioning the right of Lord Roberts to be considered the greatest British General. It contends that both

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Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener made their names in fighting against barbarous tribes; and, when pitted against civilized and well-armed troops, have failed. This is tacitly acknowledged by the English people in their lack of demonstration on the occasion of Lord Roberts' return from South Africa.

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INDIAN MIRROR,
10th Jan. 1901.

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152. The *Indian Mirror* refers to the Annual Dinner and Re-union of the "England-returned" natives, and commends the practice of inviting guests to the dinner. It hopes that the club, which these gentlemen intend starting, will soon be an accomplished fact.

153. The *Indian Mirror* of the 10th January prophecies from what it has seen and known of the immutable law of *Karma*, that the indigo industry in India is cursed. Government Commissions will not help it, neither will expert assistance nor the forced help of Indian cultivators.

154. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 10th January informs its readers that Mr. Caine has made very amicable and satisfactory arrangements with the British Congress Committee to take the lead in the House on all Indian matters, and such as the Committee may suggest to him, together with any he may choose to move on his own judgment. This is exceedingly satisfactory, and gives the lie to the statement of a split.

The same paper has learnt from Mr. Caine direct that he has written very fully and carefully both to Messrs. Wacha and Nundy about the British Committee, and that it is for the Congress Committee in India, to deal with the matter, and not Mr. Caine. In the meantime Mr. Caine promises he will stick steadily to Indian business, regardless of anybody. About Mr. Caine's letter Mr. Nundy says that "it was read by those in the inner circle." The difficulty about the British Committee is the funds or rather how to raise them? Mr. Harkissen Lal throws all the blame upon the disorganized state of affairs. He says, "With accounts in London and the real authority centered there, Mr. Wacha cannot be blamed for the present disorganized condition of affairs."

155. The *Indian Mirror* of the 10th January in criticising the brief history of the Andul Raj by Babu Herumbo Chunder Bandopadhyaya, says that a century and-a-half ago, Englishmen did not at all consider the Bengalis unfit for military service, as it is sought to be made out by many of them to-day. The author winds up by a fervent appeal to the Government that the title of "Raja" should be conferred upon Khetra Krishna, who is the descendant of those who bore the distinction of Rajaship with credit to themselves, and is personally so thoroughly deserving of the honour by reason of his munificence and public-spiritedness.

156. The following leader is taken from the *Indian Mirror* of the 10th January:—

Lord Dufferin and the London and Globe Finance Corporation. Do peers and politicians make good men of business? The question is difficult to answer one way or the other. Not a few plebians have become peers of the British realm because of their political connections, and of the wealth acquired by them in trade. On the other hand, peers and even peeresses have dragged their order in the mire by accepting presents in shares or in ready cash from company-promoters like Mr. Hooley. There are or have been peers again, who have been engaged in sound and perfectly honourable banking business. The Duke of Fife continued to be a partner for a number of years in the banking firm of Sir Samuel Scott and Company, now known as Parr's Bank. The Duke ceased to be a banker when he married a daughter of the Prince of Wales. Lord Harrowby is a banker, by virtue of his descent on his mother's side from Thomas Coutts, the founder of the bank of that name. Other banker-peers are Lords Hillingdon, Wolverton, Amesbury, Jersey, Melville, Carrington and Tweedmouth. These are banker-peers proper. Of course, there are many peers who are Directors of banking companies.

And this brings us to the case of Lord Dufferin, a late Viceroy of India. He was far from being a rich man when he came to this country. We do not think, he may be considered even a wealthy peer now. But in his retirement, Lord Dufferin seems to have dabbled in financial operations. No one has so far imputed personal dishonour to him in connection with the London and Globe Finance Corporation, of which he is the Chairman. At a rather inharmonious meeting of the Corporation, held on the 17th December last, at

which Lord Dufferin presided, the Report showed a heavy deficit, and no dividend was declared. Lord Dufferin explained the position of the Corporation in a forcible speech. As for himself, he said that he had for some time felt, that the strain and anxiety, resulting from his connection with a Company, whose financial operations were on so vast a scale, were in excess of what his advancing years and declining health were adequate to sustain. But he would stick to his office as Chairman of the Company. "Although no one could be more sanguine than he was of the general soundness of their position, he did not like to desert his post on an occasion when the Directors were obliged to withhold a dividend, nor would anything induce him to shrink from sharing whatever responsibility might be considered to weigh upon the Managing Director and his other colleagues." The Managing Director, in his turn, said, that Lord Dufferin on joining the Company as Chairman had bought five thousand shares at thirty shillings each, which he still held, and also twenty thousand shares in the British American Corporation—an allied concern—at par. The shares are now quoted at a half or a third of the value mentioned above. So that Lord Dufferin must be a considerably poorer man now. But he does not appear to have stuck long to his resolution of holding the Chair of the London and Globe Finance Corporation. Reuter informed us by telegram that Lord Dufferin was going to the Cape to see his wounded son, and had resigned the Chairmanship of the Corporation. Then came the intelligence that over a dozen firms on the Stock Exchange had failed on account of the embarrassments of the Corporation. There must have been quite a clamour on the Stock Exchange and in the Press to induce him to withdraw his resignation, and to stop at home to face whatever consequences his office as Chairman of the Corporation may involve. It is a distressing situation, the development of which every one will watch with anxious interest. But this brings us back to the question—do peers make good men of business?

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS;
The 5th January 1901.

J. A. STEVENS,
Asst. to the Inspr.-General of Police, L. P.

